

# **crossroads**

MSSU Alumni Publication Fall 2013



## **Back HOME**

**Dr. Alan Marble returns  
to lead Southern forward.**

### **Plus...**

**Academic Updates   Alumni Features   Lion Sports   And more!**



# crossroads contents



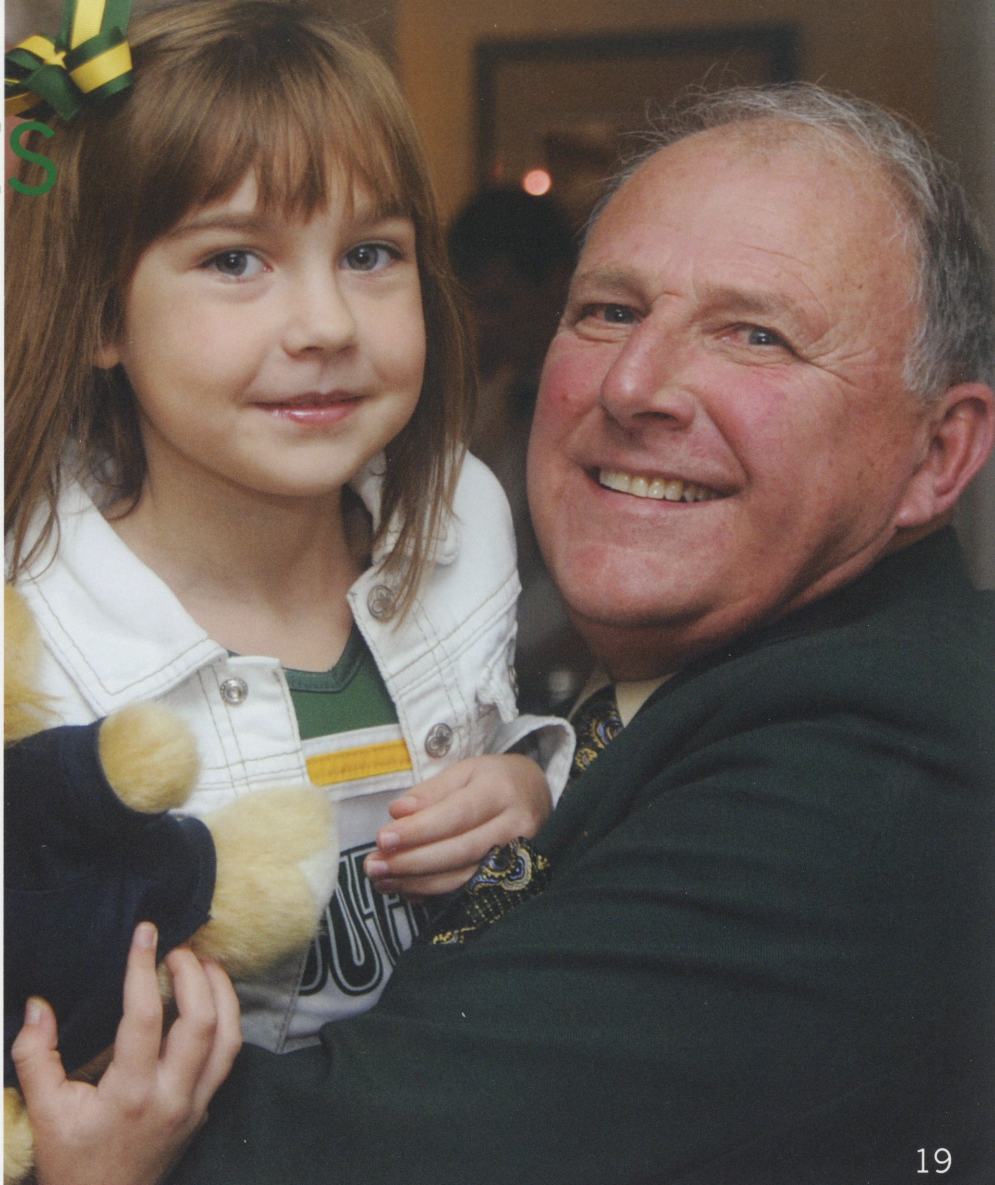
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*Interim President Dr. Alan Marble, '79, returns to his alma mater with enthusiasm and pride. Photo by Liz Spencer, '14; photo illustration by Abi Francis, '14.*



Greetings,

It is a distinct honor to address you in this edition of *Crossroads*, one of Missouri Southern State University's most historic and respected publications. An alum myself, it's a magazine I look forward to receiving in my mailbox every summer and winter.



As Southern's interim president, I enjoy few things more than speaking about the virtues of this great institution. Since arriving this past summer, it has been my goal to frequently communicate with donors, community members, employees and students about the strengths of our university. But, most of all, I enjoy bragging about our terrific faculty and staff and the creative solutions they are finding for the challenges we regularly encounter and routinely overcome.

What I want to emphasize is that this institution is even better today than when you left it. The life events that formed your memories — your favorite professors, friendships you made, athletic competitions you attended, and cultural events you enjoyed — are still being experienced by students today. It's critical that we provide them the best learning environment possible, and with your help, that's exactly what we will do. We are making major strides: Enrollment is up 3.5 percent; we've announced two new independent graduate programs; we have been privileged to receive several major gifts; and we've improved communication on and off campus.

Most importantly, we are conveying to our students, faculty and staff how much we believe in them. It's our theme this year, and one I am proud to repeat. We believe in the success of our university, the promise of our students, the loyalty of our graduates, and that Southern will continue to thrive and support alumni for generations to come.

Warm wishes to you and your loved ones,

*Alan D. Marble*



Alan Marble, '79, Ph.D., MSSU Interim President



Dear alumni and friends,

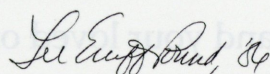
A commitment to Missouri Southern can take many forms. We refer to them as gifts of time, talent and treasure. Volunteering to help with Alumni Association events is a great way to give back to your alma mater. Whether it's helping to contact classmates for reunions, getting together in an alumni chapter in another town or city, or coming to campus to speak or mentor a student, those gifts of time are special.

By joining the MSSU Alumni Association, you are sharing your Southern pride with future alumni. A portion of every membership helps pay for the seven scholarships we provide annually to our legacies across campus.

We also encourage you to participate in our trivia contest to win a Samsung Galaxy Tab2 and take us wherever you go. And, we want to know where in the world you are or have been. Take your MSSU pride on the road and snap a photo of yourself in green and gold and send it to us at **AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu** and we'll share it with others, both on our website and in the next issue of *Crossroads*.

Stay connected and be involved. Let's let our "roar" be heard around the world. We look forward to receiving your photos and hearing from you!

In Lion Pride,



Lee Elliff Pound, '86,  
Alumni Director



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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

**crossroads** magazine is the official alumni publication of the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association. The mission is to serve its readers by providing information of interest about the University, its alumni and the Alumni Association and by acting as a channel for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for life" with the University.

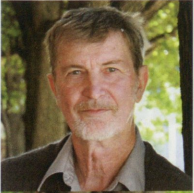
**crossroads** magazine is published two times a year by the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association and the Department of Communication. It is mailed to current MSSU Alumni Association members and friends of the University. A select number of copies are distributed on campus each semester.

**crossroads** is written and designed by faculty, staff, students and alumni. The views expressed do not represent the student body, faculty, staff, administration or Missouri Southern State University.

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## Fall 2013 Staff Members



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**Marlee Tegenkamp, '14**  
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**Samantha Zoltanski, '14**  
Mass Communication

Greetings, alumni and friends!

One of the fun parts of my job is watching our student editors unearth all of the rich history at Missouri Southern and the former Joplin Junior College. The students never stop amazing me with their story ideas and sources.



In November, we learned that **crossroads** had once again won several MarCom Awards, most notably a second Platinum Award for writing. This award was based on the fall 2012 issue, which featured many articles on the 75th Anniversary. The two Gold Awards were overall honors for the fall 2012 issue and the spring 2013 issue. These awards are a testament to the quality content and design our student staff consistently produces.

As many of you may or may not know, **crossroads** is produced by students in the communication department as well as by graphic arts majors. It's a great feeling to see their efforts rewarded with these honors from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals and to see the Missouri Southern Alumni Association publication's name alongside major corporations, nonprofits and universities.

Join me in an enthusiastic salute to these dedicated editors on a job well done!

Warm regards,

*Rhonda Clark '00*

Rhonda Clark, '00,  
**crossroads** Editor,  
Assistant Professor, Communication



## Support goes high tech for students

Opportunities for students at Missouri Southern continue to increase, thanks to our many generous donors, and they increase in areas as diverse as education, scholarships and athletics.



Teacher education students have a new Mac lab thanks to generous gifts provided by the Fred and Rebekah Blair Hughes Charitable Trust and the

Lemons Family Charitable Trust. The lab, which opened this fall, is equipped with 30 student stations, an interactive Smart Board and projector, network printer, and a transportable instructor station. It is truly a 21st century technology lab.

Before the addition of this lab, education students studied in a PC environment and then had to transition into teaching in an Apple environment. The new lab enables them to better prepare for their future careers. Southern is a leader of teacher preparation for the region, so this was an especially important step to help those who are teaching the next generation of leaders.

Scholarships continue to grow as well. Next fall, students will be able to apply for the Carolyn Bowman Braun Memorial Scholarship, which was started by Joseph Braun in memory of his late wife. Mr. Braun endowed the scholarship so it will remain in perpetuity to benefit students. During conversations

with the development staff, Mr. Braun said he wanted to find a way to show his wife that he will always remember their commitment.

Ninety-seven percent of the students at Southern receive financial aid, so scholarships are especially important, and this is one of many that are made available by private contributions.

In athletics, an anonymous donor made a \$250,000 gift designated for the construction of a new video scoreboard in the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center. The new scoreboard, which is 8.5 feet tall and 10.5 feet wide on each side, features four 40-square-foot LED video screens, with each screen standing approximately 5 x 8 feet.

No doubt the scoreboard will add to the game experience for student-athletes and fans. Equally important, however, is the fact that the video scoreboard is providing valuable hands-on experience for the department of communication students who will operate the cameras and the board during the games. A communication practicum of broadcast students is running cameras and learning live-event filming and high-tech editing techniques.

These are only a handful of the many generous gifts that have been given recently to help the students of Southern, and all are equally important. Thank you. I can't wait to see what's around the next corner.

— JoAnn Graffam, '87, Vice President for Development and Executive Director, Missouri Southern Foundation

## 2013 Spirit of Philanthropy awards



Above, David Haffner (left), CEO of Leggett & Platt Incorporated, visits with Leanne Ford at the Lantern Society dinner in October. Haffner accepted the Spirit of Philanthropy Award for a corporation at the dinner. Right, W. Robert Corley accepts the individual award from JoAnn Graffam, '87. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13





# Student gives back to Costa Ricans

Missouri Southern students who receive a study abroad grant from the Institute of International Studies are required to write a 1,000-word report upon their return describing how the trip impacted their lives. The most common expression is that it was “a life-changing experience.”



For senior Abby Risner, six weeks in Costa Rica

during the summer of 2013 was more than a life-changing experience. She came away with a burning desire to help others and a newfound appreciation that happiness doesn't relate to the amount of material possessions a person has.

A Spanish education major from Bentonville, Arkansas, Abby spent the first five weeks studying Spanish in Heredia, 10 miles from the capital of San Jose. She lived with a 75-year-old woman who didn't speak “a lick of English.” There were weekend excursions to such places as Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific Ocean, the Monteverde cloud forest, and the Rio Celeste hot springs and waterfall.

The final week of the International Student Exchange Program was devoted to a community service project in the small village of Altamira. “No one in our group was excited to go,” Abby confessed. She and a fellow student lived with a family of five in a small farmhouse made completely of wood.

“This house had one toilet and one shower, with no sink, for three teenagers and two adults,” she said. “There were two bedrooms — one for the boys, which consisted of a home-made bed and broken glass for a mirror, and a lofted area with one bed where the parents and

the 14-year-old daughter slept.

“They lived in poverty, but they didn't know that. They were the happiest people I have ever met in my life, and they had so little.”

Abby and her fellow students hammered ceramic tiles and made designs on a floor in a hotel for their community service project. Late afternoons and early evenings were spent playing soccer with the residents of Altamira.

“Everyone in town played soccer,” she said. “Everyone from 4 to 40.”

You would expect someone who's the starting goalie on an NCAA Division II soccer team to be the best player in a small village, but Abby said that wasn't the case. She was struck by the fact that they played in rain boots or barefooted.

Upon her return to MSSU, Abby sent a dozen pair of soccer cleats to her host family as well as two cell phones and a flashlight.

“They were mesmerized with the iPhone I was using, so I left them that one,” she said. “I sent the flashlight because at night they would use a very dim light from an old cell phone that barely lit up two feet in front of them. This town had no streetlights, so it was very dark after the sun went down, and there were a lot of dangerous animals that came out at night.”

The MSSU soccer team planned to send another box of cleats, shin guards, and other equipment before Christmas.

“This study abroad experience has forever changed my life and has made me a better person,” Abby said. “I will continue to help my host family with things they need as long as it can be shipped internationally. I cannot wait to return to Costa Rica.”

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, Director,  
Institute of International Studies



*Abby Risner, senior Spanish education major, hangs from a zip line in Monteverde, Costa Rica, where Risner and classmates went for a weekend outing. Risner spent the summer of 2013 in Costa Rica as part of the International Student Exchange Program, where she helped with community service projects in Altamira.* — Submitted photo



# Cancer survivor starts scholarship with help from her family.

Tears welled up in Charlotte Hopper's eyes as she recalled the day in March 2012 when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She remembers the relief of finally being diagnosed, but an unsettling feeling followed. Her faith, family and attitude helped her recover and go into remission.

Charlotte, '05, and her husband, Randy Hopper, '10, have been a dynamic duo for years. After a first date in 1991, the couple has faced every obstacle in life as a team.

They married after three months of dating, and soon after, their daughter, Morgan, was born.

After years of being misdiagnosed, the Missouri Southern adjunct English professor found out she had Stage III-C ovarian cancer. Her husband of 22 years and 17-year-old Morgan were by her side. They found that a diagnosis was anything but easy.

"When I was diagnosed with the cancer, we just weren't that shook up. We've been through a lot together," Charlotte said. "I had been having pain in my side.

"They kept telling me there's nothing wrong. I had just turned 44, so I said, OK, that's fine. They told me I was just getting old. But then I had begun to gain weight. I began to look pregnant. I kept saying, 'Why do I look pregnant?'"

The pain intensified and work became difficult.

After months of pain, doctor visits and prayer, the Hoppers took control of the situation. They demanded more tests.

"In the ultrasound, the tech was saying, 'I think that's an ovary over here, and I think that's an ovary over here.' My insides were a mess," Charlotte said.

Randy remembers when he saw what was growing inside his wife's stomach.

"When they said she was just fat, I told her, 'I'll love you anyway,'" Randy said. "I wouldn't have married her if I couldn't love her through everything. I was going to love her through this."

After a biopsy of the tumor, the Hoppers scheduled emergency surgery the next day.

"We were told it would be a few hours, but then it lasted more. That's when I knew something was wrong," Randy said. "When the doctors were finally done, I wanted to be the only one in the room. I was fighting our family, wanting to take care of it on my own. Then I saw Morgan sitting in a chair in the waiting room, a tear falling down her cheek. That's when I realized she was supposed to be a part of this, too. I realized, she's 17, but she's just as adult as we are."

Morgan wasn't scared; her mother would be just fine.

"For a long time, I wasn't really concerned, honestly," she said. "I just had faith in God that she'd end up OK no matter what. I was more concerned about my mom because I felt bad that she was in surgery and she didn't know what was going on."

The surgery was successful but extensive enough to keep

# A giving



Above, Charlotte Hopper (left) receives support from her husband, Randy, and daughter, Morgan. Left, Charlotte wears the GYN Cancers Alliance Volunteer Survivor Award close to her heart. The necklace is a tribute to her hours of volunteer service with GYNCA.

— Photos by Liz Spencer, '14



# spirit



Charlotte in bed. Randy and Morgan took care of her, kept her company and laughed with her.

"The things that Randy would do for me, the things that he did for me, the number of times he's cleaned up after me after the surgery," Charlotte said, "he would do anything for me. He's always said, 'We were close before, we're closer now. Husbands love your wives like Christ loved the church.' Just when you think you can't be loved anymore, and

then there's another layer, I think that's the way we are."

Charlotte also experienced love from her family and Southern students.

"My family was amazing, and my students understood and they truly cared," she said.

"I told my students I was just going to be out two weeks. My students were so cool. They took an interest. They asked questions. Many of them had relatives with cancer. One of the first things they

would say to me was, 'What are the doctors saying?'

"Whenever we would be back in class, they were there. They could have written the rest of the semester off, but they were there. A couple of them would email me and tell me, 'This has really shaken me up, this is unreal, and this upsets me.' One student told me, 'I think this really brought us all together.'"

After chemotherapy, Charlotte's prognosis was positive. The Hoppers





Left, adjunct kinesiology faculty member LaTonya Myers moves to the music at the Zumbathon. Above, T-shirts for sale at the Zumbathon read, "Someone we love needs a cure." Below, students, alumni and community members dance at the GYNCA Zumbathon fundraiser in April 19 in Young Gymnasium. Below left, Charlotte Hopper smiles as she watches friends and family dance at the Zumbathon. Another Zumbathon is set for February 28, 2014, at Southern.

— Photos by Liz Spencer, '14



are involved in GYN Cancers Alliance, a cancer survivor organization based in Springfield, Missouri, but they wanted to do more.

Months later and healthy, Charlotte and Randy gave back to Southern to lessen the financial burden of students with similar situations. The annual Charlotte Ollinger Hopper Scholarship for cancer survivors took shape. Charlotte chose to include her maiden name in the scholarship in memory of her father, who died of cancer.

"At the very beginning of this experience, we thought we would be financially devastated because of all the bills, and we didn't know if Morgan was going to get any scholarships," Randy said of his daughter, who is a freshman at Southern. "We looked for cancer survivor scholarships, and we couldn't find any. Long

story short, we had insurance, good family support and only six rounds of chemo treatments; we had it covered. We were in good shape."

The Hoppers started the scholarship to help others who faced similar cancer battles. Randy's two children from a previous marriage, Whitney, 27, and Jason, 30, also help with the family's efforts.

"We figured, we don't make a lot of money, but we can do this much a year, for one person," Randy said. "That could be a big deal to a student. Once we got it started, and we pledged our money to it, we just thought we could get this for more students at more schools. It would be nice to give a larger reward and to more students. We've met a lot of people on campus that have cancer. This is also a way to promote awareness." **C**

— Sydney Marsellis, '14

## Criteria:

The Charlotte Ollinger Hopper Scholarship is available to students who possess the following:

- Minimum 2.5 GPA
- Good standing with university
- Full- or part-time student
- Cancer patient, cancer survivor, or a dependent of patient or survivor within the last five years; physician documentation required

## Apply or donate:

Contact the Missouri Southern Foundation in Hearn Hall, rooms 209 & 211, call 417-625-9396, or send an email to:

**giving@mssu.edu**



# Q&A:

Former bank executive continues to help and serve people and aid development through the Walton Family Foundation.



Rob Brothers, '77, is home region program director for the Walton Family Foundation. — Submitted photo

**Q:** After a long and distinguished career with Arvest Bank, you joined the Walton Family Foundation. What inspires you most about working for the foundation?

**A:** After 30 years with Arvest Bank in Rogers, I joined the Walton Family Foundation in November of 2009. My responsibilities at the foundation are for managing and originating foundation investments in the state of Arkansas, under a strategic plan approved by our board of directors. In the banking business, I always enjoyed being able to help people realize their financial goals and dreams. In the foundation position, I continue to serve and help thousands of people throughout our state through the administration of Walton Family Foundation grants and projects. It is the perfect way to use 30 years of business skills and relationships developed in the banking industry to continue to provide meaningful opportunities and development for the people of Arkansas.

**Q:** What do you consider your greatest accomplishment thus far and why?

**A:** My greatest personal accomplishments are my lifelong commitment to my wife and having raised four well-adjusted and happy children. The pinnacle of my banking career occurred in 2003 as I was elected by my peers as chairman of the Arkansas Banker's Association, our state's largest and oldest trade association for the banking industry. I'm also honored to have served on the board of directors of the Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Corporation for the past 13 years, where I currently chair the board's audit committee. Each of these things, I believe, came about because of a proven track record of effectively serving the needs of others.

**Q:** How do you think the banking and financial industry has changed?

**A:** The banking industry — indeed the entire financial industry — has changed immensely over the past 40 years, since my initial involvement while working my way through Southern. While still being one of

the most heavily regulated industries in America, the variety and array of financial services provided by the banking industry today would be unrecognizable to a banker of 40 years ago. The ability to conduct banking transactions from your phone or computer; to seamlessly make and settle purchases anywhere in the world from your local bank account; and to have all of your financial and retirement needs met by a single institution were not even legally permissible 40 years ago. Harnessing technology and the legal changes that permitted statewide and nationwide banking organizations has served our mobile society in an exemplary way. Yet, at its core, the most effective banks still have the ability to maintain solid personal relationships with their customers when nonroutine financial needs arise.

**Q:** What led you to follow your career path and what advice do you have for those who would like to do the same?

**A:** I became a banker by accident really — just as a way to work my way through school. However, during those early years, I discovered that this industry was able to capitalize on both its long and storied history for building America, and the exciting challenge of reinventing itself as a comprehensive provider of financial services and asset management. I was soon hooked by this combination, and my 37 years as a banker were truly rewarding, both to me and I believe to the many customers and relationships I was privileged to build and maintain over those years. My advice to those seeking or beginning a career: First, understand that regardless of your career, we are all in the people and relationship business — the harder you work to help others succeed, the more likely it is that you will succeed. Second, we are in an accelerating world — while it is possible to remain in the same industry, or even the same company for a long career, you will likely hold many different positions over that career. You will need to be a lifelong learner, and continually refine and update your skills. Finally, a

career is a long haul, and you will spend far more time at work than you are likely to spend in any

other endeavor, including nurturing your marriage and raising a family. So seek work that is satisfying and fulfilling and that can keep you enthused and learning for many years — but strike a balance in your life. Give quality time to your spouse, your children and your friendships. Acknowledge that there is a greater power than yourself — my faith life has sustained me through many challenges in life that I could not have handled alone.

**Q:** How did your education and experiences at Missouri Southern prepare you for your career?

**A:** I think Southern did a magnificent job of preparing me to be a lifelong learner and to have a successful career. Small class sizes and close relationships with professors; access to extracurricular activities and projects; flexibility in class schedules (many of my class hours were evening classes); challenging work and expectations that pushed us to be the best we could be.

**Q:** Do you have a favorite Southern memory you would like to share?

**A:** My favorite Southern memory is of my marketing professor, (the late) Bernie Johnson. In a 1974 principles of marketing class, he told us that he was going to drill the definition of marketing into us, so that if he ran into us on the streets 40 years later, we would be able to recite it for him. Well, Mr. Johnson, you did it: Marketing is a total system of interacting business activities designed to plan, price, produce and promote want-satisfying goods and services to present and potential customers.

*Brothers graduated from MSSC in December 1977 with a BSBA in economics and finance. He lives in Lowell, Arkansas, with his wife of 40 years, Becky. They have four children and 10 grandchildren.*



# Making a Difference

Alumni find special rewards by giving back to their communities.

**T**he December weather was uncharacteristically mild so young Braxton Davis, age 6, decided to tag along with his dad to ring the bell for the Salvation Army during the 2012 Christmas season.

"Why are we doing this, Dad?" Braxton said.

"We do this to help people who are less fortunate," Brandon Davis, '03 and '05, told his son.

Father and son enjoyed a memorable day of ringing the bell and witnessing the generosity of a community willing to give anonymously for the benefit of others.

The spirit of giving often starts in childhood, sometimes nurtured by teachers and school projects, and sometimes kindled by tragedy or natural disaster. Missouri Southern alumni continue to make a difference in the success of many charities in the Joplin community, matching their skills with the appropriate causes.

Davis makes time for community involvement even during his busy tax season at the BKD accounting firm. He

serves as treasurer of the Joplin Humane Society, president-elect of Rotary Club, and is a member of Young Professionals Network with the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. His accounting background was a perfect fit for the Joplin Humane Society, which was nearing completion of fundraising for the new facility when he came on the board.

"Great things have been going on at the new shelter. We've raised awareness and we're looking at the point now where we can start an endowment and continue the legacy of the Humane Society," Davis said.

"Rotary Club of Joplin is also a great organization. It has been the vehicle that I've been able to get involved and touch so many other not-for-profits.

"I enjoyed volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. I learned a lot because I'm not really a handy guy, but that was a lot of fun."

Davis plans to continue volunteer work, even after retirement, perhaps using his accounting skills to help with tax preparations. His company also makes

significant contributions to the community through the BKD Foundation.

"It's a great community to live in — Joplin has really stepped up," Davis said.

Scott Clayton, '03, also found a way to put his background and education to a higher purpose. Clayton became director of Habitat for Humanity four years ago, but everything in his past groomed him for that position. While obtaining his degree in sociology at Southern, he interned at Community Clinic and was involved in the formation of Hearts & Hammers, where volunteers do improvements for elderly, disabled and low-income families. After graduation, he was in charge of the adaptability program for the Independent Living Center before coming to Habitat for Humanity.

"I wanted to help people the best way I could, and I come from a construction background, and when you throw the element of sociology in there, Habitat for Humanity was the best place for me," Clayton said.

Clayton said the 2011 tornado changed everything for local organizations, and

*Photo, Melissa Hogan, '03, waves to supporters as she begins a 10-day bike trip from Joplin to New Orleans to raise funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina, the 2011 Joplin tornado, and Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast. The fundraiser was named JOMONOLA. — Photo by Willie Brown, '15*









*Dr. Bev Crespino-Graham, '88, learned a sense of helping others from her mother. She is the director of the United Way. — Photo by Willie Brown, '15*



*A banner signed by Joplin residents thanks volunteers for helping after the 2011 tornado at Rebuild Joplin, a nonprofit Bryan Vowels, '92, helped found. — Photo by Liz Spencer, '14*



*Trisha Hilsabeck Gould, '95, works with local Girl Scouts as a troop leader. — Photo by Willie Brown, '15*

Habitat was fortunate to have pre-existing relationships with volunteers and builders.

"Before the tornado, we built three to five homes a year," Clayton said. "We have a few more houses to finish up and we'll be at 71 completed houses since the two-year anniversary. It's pretty amazing. I think Habitat is rewarding for a lot of people."

Clayton is still involved with Hearts & Hammers and serves on other boards. He enjoys going out and working with the volunteers and sometimes takes his children along to events.

"Life's pretty simple," Clayton said. "You want to do your best to be a positive force and hopefully live the life that God wants you to live and work hard all along the way. It's pretty simple."

Bryan Vowels, '92, is no stranger to community projects. About a week after the 2011 tornado, while he and Jared Hogan served on the Bright Futures board, they started Rebuild Joplin as a way of matching the needs of the community with the resources available.

"We came up with the name Rebuild Joplin and for really the first six to nine months, it was matching resources and it was a very effective way for the community to come together at one site, and whether the person had a chain saw that they wanted to volunteer, or a person came in with a need, just like the Bright Futures model, we could post it," Vowels said. "As it evolved, the biggest need in the community was getting people back into their homes."

Vowels is passionate about Rebuild Joplin and Bright Futures, but he and his wife have three more big dreams for Joplin. One is the Single Parent Scholarship, which they helped get off the ground and to date have provided more than \$100,000 in scholarships. The other two dreams, still in the works, involve a performing arts center and a community center for nonprofits, similar to facilities in northwest Arkansas.

"If we can help create something or modify something to take it to the rest of the world and pay it forward, that's what jazzes me up," Vowels said. "And while

you're doing it, you get to meet so many people who are passionate about these causes."

Melissa Hogan, '03, discovered her passion for volunteering while supporting her husband, Jared, in his activities with Rebuild Joplin.

"When the tornado happened and Jared got involved with Rebuild Joplin, I realized our circle grew and our community just meant so much to us and being able to volunteer and to help other people meant so much," Hogan said. "It doesn't just go one way. We feel gratitude, and we get so much from being able to give back."

Many Joplin residents, including Hogan, participated in a unique fundraiser that served the needs of three recent disasters: Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, the 2011 Joplin tornado, and Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast. JOMONOLA was a fundraising 10-day bike ride from Joplin to New Orleans.

Hogan also volunteered for Special Olympics as part of the health and wellness program while a student at Southern.





Scott Clayton, '03, serves as the director of Joplin's Habitat for Humanity. — Photo by Willie Brown, '15



Brandon Davis, '03 and '05, holds a kitten available for adoption at the Joplin Humane Society. He also works with other civic and nonprofit groups in the area. — Photo by Liz Spencer, '14

"I was helping a little blind girl, and now as an adult, I have become passionate about special needs kids," Hogan said.

"From this, I've learned that I have that passion for people, and I'm going to do this the rest of my life and I'm going to be able to teach my kids about volunteering and giving back to the community. When everyone in Joplin is back in their homes, then I'll go to the next community that has suffered a disaster."

Dr. Bev Crespino-Graham, '88, was no stranger to Joplin, nor to volunteer work, when she returned to Joplin more than a year ago to take a position as executive director of United Way of Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas.

"My mom was in the nonprofit sector here. She just retired after 30 years at the YMCA and so I grew up in the YMCA," Crespino-Graham said. "That was one of my first jobs. I've grown up in the nonprofit sector of giving back and volunteering and fundraising, so it was natural for me to go in that direction."

"The tornado was a wakeup call to where I wanted to be and what I wanted

to do. I was working at Children's Mercy and this job came open. My love for United Way and my love for this community and what I thought I might be able to bring back was why I took this job, so we moved back after 20 years of being gone."

The local United Way recently reached 97 percent of its lofty goal, even though many local donations are still going to "bricks and mortar" as a result of the tornado.

Crespino-Graham had previously worked with United Way, along with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the YMCA, and Girl Scouts, where she worked as a camp counselor at Camp Mintahama through her college years at Southern.

Trisha Hilsabeck Gould, '95, is the prosecuting attorney for Joplin's municipal court, but for the past two years, she found time to volunteer as a Girl Scout troop leader.

"In my upbringing, my parents and my school routinely did community service as part of our education, and it was important that we learned that we're part of a community and as part of the com-

munity our contribution is important," Gould said. "What we can do is important even at a young age, and that's something that I try to instill in the Girl Scouts in that even though they're small, they are still a part of the community and they're still important and so we learn about involvement from a young age."

Joplin is a community in which volunteer statistics exceed the national average. Volunteerism was down slightly in the United States in 2012, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, at 26.5 percent, amounting to 64.5 million volunteers spending a median time of 50 hours per year.

Whitehouse.gov reports that 126,800 individuals from across the country put in 755,300 hours of community service in the Joplin area in the year after the tornado, calling the volunteer response "nothing short of extraordinary." Southern played a major role in coordination of volunteers, including faculty, staff, students and alumni, and to this day, Southern Lions continue to pay it forward. **C**

— Annie Clarkson, '15

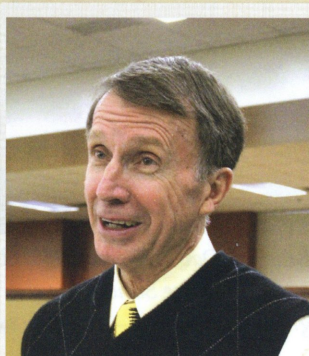


# Literary notes



Advice for future writers: be prepared to mentally sweat, be persistent, and let your words periodically marinate. Writing, to this old boy and I believe most folks, is hard work, but having your work accepted for publication will bring you pride, joy and a wee touch of immortality — emphasis on wee. It may be true that the faintest ink is more powerful than the strongest memory.

— Bobby Steere, former MSSU faculty  
*"The Trace of the Southern Anapaho"*



I work here at Southern, so the event is important to me as a faculty member. I also gave tours and a brief history of the land and MSSU. My advice for writers is to write about something that you are interested in. It takes a great deal of work, but it is much more enjoyable to write about something that you like.

— Charles Nodler, '75  
*"Bracing the Corner Post," "Field of Teams" and "The Mean Green"*



I do feel it is momentous to be able to return and represent the institution that had so much to do with the honing of my own writing skills in the first place. I was given much positive direction from my professors, and I am thankful for that to this day. I would also like to add this piece of advice to fellow and future writers and students: Be uncompromising when it comes to your own education, formal or informal. Whether we realize it or not, we are always being educated ... and a college degree can often be seen as a gateway to the learning that takes place during the rest of your life.

— Jason M. Begey, '07  
*"Innermost Demons" and "My Dad, Whitebeard the Pirate ... and the Magic Can of Shaving Cream"*



I enjoyed my time here, and if forced to do it all over again, wouldn't change a thing — except maybe my mullet. On second thought, I rocked that mullet. As far as providing advice to future authors? I'll modify a short quote recently used in the sporting world to say this: "Shut up and write." Everyone says they could write a book, very few try, even fewer do. Promise yourself to write a page a day; in a year, you'll have a good-sized manuscript. Once you've finished writing your book, the real work begins.

— Gary Neece, '91  
*"Cold Blue" and "Sins of Our Fathers"*



Pens were flying at a book-signing event on April 26 and 27. During Spring Spree, one of the final events of the 75th anniversary celebration at Missouri Southern, alumni authors assembled in Spiva Library to present, discuss and autograph their work.

"We had a great response; several were unable to attend but wished that they were able to attend," said Amber Carr, public services librarian. "We are very pleased and excited that so many alumni returned to participate and showcase their work."

Alumni in attendance included Ron Bay Jr., '79; Jason M. Begey, '07; Calvin Cassady, '72; Desiree Finkbeiner, '06; John Jeffries, '77; Gary Neece '91;

Charles Nodler, '75; and Sean T. Poindexter, '04.

Current and former Southern employees were also present to answer questions about their published pieces, including Bobby Steere, former professor of education; Norton Wheeler, assistant professor of social science; and David Locher, professor of social science.

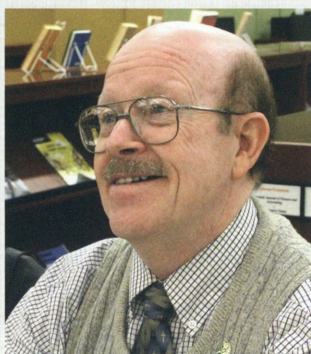
"I think it is great that MSSU has so many talented people on the faculty and among the alumni. This event is a nice way to acknowledge and celebrate some of the great things that happen at MSSU," said Locher.

— Story by Robin Fjelstad, '15  
Photos by Samantha Zoltanski, '14



My advice for students with big dreams: keep dreaming big and envisioning your future. Take your education seriously and cherish every memory you make in college. There will be times you look back to with fondness and gratitude — especially when success finally comes your way. Most of all, enjoy the journey, even the unpleasant tasks that seem difficult, because those are the experiences you'll learn the most from. The only people who never achieve success are people who give up their "dreams" for "reality." Little do they know, dreams become reality if you make them your priority without compromise.

— Desiree Finkbeiner, '06  
*"The Ethos Series: Morning Star, Equinox"*



Inside of every person on the earth is at least one good book crying to be exposed to the sunlight. One more-experienced author said that the key to good writing is to sit at the keyboard and open up a vein, implying that if one pours his or her heart into the work, it will be worthwhile. My advice to any young person is to learn as early as possible where your talents and passions lie ... Have others whose opinion in that area you respect evaluate your efforts and stay away from those who pepper you with a shaker full of doubts. My wife, Carol, has been my strongest encourager in everything I do.

— John Jeffries, '77  
*"The Disappearance: A Journalist Searches for Answers After Millions Vanish"*



I'm honored to be invited back these 33 years later. I never imagined coming back as a published author. It is funny how today the two things that bring me the most fulfillment, teaching and writing, have nothing to do with my major, business administration. The advice I would give current students is that life is a process and your aims and ambitions today may change tomorrow. I was inspired to write after age 50, and I wonder what took so long, and yet I realize that the reason I'm inspired to write today is probably due in part to the life I've lived along the way. I've had a long career in business management, but my dream and goal is to become a full-time writer.

— Ron Bay Jr., '79  
*"Little Heathens"*



# Let's HEAR A ROAR

Young Lions ready to move on to the next school level.

**T**hirteen graduates borrowed from a Brownie tune and changed the lyrics to fit with their Lion pride: "Make new friends, but keep the old, one is green and the other gold."

The youngsters were celebrating their accomplishment with friends they had made while attending preschool at the Missouri Southern Child Development Center. A graduation ceremony was held May 3 in Corley Auditorium, a final tribute to their preschool years at Southern as they looked forward to kindergarten in the fall.

"The teachers have been preparing for the graduation ceremony since the beginning of March; the kids have been practicing since April," said Nikki Tappana, director of the CDC.

Luke Frazier, 5, was one of the young graduates. The son of Kelli, '04 and '10, and Ryan Frazier of Joplin, has been attending the CDC since he was 2.

"Since they have been practicing for the graduation ceremony, he's been telling us, 'I'm going to leave these old friends, but I'm going to make new ones,'" Kelli said. "So they have been preparing him for the transition to his new school."

Luke started kindergarten with the Carl Junction (Missouri) R-1 School District in August, but he had fond memories of the CDC.

His favorite part was playing. He liked the Smart Board used for learning games and practicing numbers and letters.



*Top left, Debbie Cole (right) of Webb City, Missouri, takes a photo of her grandson Titus Stanley, who is held by his mom, Casey Cole, Webb City, and Titus' grandfather, Jack Cole of Carthage. Above center, green and gold balloons drop on the 2013 graduates. Above, peering through her lion mask, Anna Corcoran sings, "Welcome to the Lion's Celebration." — Photos by Liz Spencer, '14*

"Sometimes you use your fingers," Luke said.

Kelli, an adjunct dental hygiene instructor at MSSU's dental hygiene clinic, found the flexible hours of the CDC convenient to her schedule. She is on campus only certain days of the week and was able to enroll Luke in the program to fit her time constraints.

"The teachers are very caring and they

always kept him busy with lots of activities. It was a good experience; they were really patient," Kelli said.

The CDC accepts students who are children of alumni, faculty, staff or students. Tappana encourages parents and expecting parents to plan ahead.

"We currently have a waiting list, but we sometimes have openings that arise during the year," she said. "We are open





*Above, Taden Curtis (center) grins and gives his "strongman" pose while looking at his family in the audience, while Reese Bruggeman (left) and Titus Stanley stand in their places on the stage at the graduation ceremony for the Child Development Center on May 3 in Corley Auditorium. The event gave the 13 children a chance to say farewell to their preschool years.*

almost the entire summer, including Fridays, when the rest of the campus is closed."

The CDC has full- and part-time care options for parents.

"This is a perk for students, since they do not have to pay for an entire week, only the days that fit their schedule," Tappana said.

The CDC offers programs for children

through age 5. A summer school option is available for ages 6 through 8. Tappana said the preschool program prepares children to enter kindergarten.

"We believe when our kids leave, they are ready," she said.

The CDC staff sponsors three or four activities for children and their families each year, including a fall festival, spring fling with an Easter egg hunt, and a

Need more on the Child Development Center? Call Nikki Tappana, director, 417-625-3178 or at [tappana-n@mssu.edu](mailto:tappana-n@mssu.edu) via email. [www.mssu.edu/child-development-center](http://www.mssu.edu/child-development-center)

grandparents tea in September. The May graduation ceremony is the capstone moment for the children as they transition to kindergarten.

"We try to keep the family very involved," Tappana said, "because if you get parents involved with their children's education, you have a strong structure to build upon." **C**

— Liz Spencer, '14





Bridget and Rob Yust, '80, (left) visit with Outstanding Alumni recipient Michael W. Osborne, '76, and his wife, Terry, '77. — Photos by Mike Gullett

# Homecoming 2013

Southern salutes outstanding alumni, court and friends.

**H**omecoming 2013 was scheduled for the last week in October/early November. The campus truly hasn't looked this beautiful in years, as the trees were at their peak of fall color. Although our festivities were shortened this year out of respect after the sudden death of offensive line coach Derek Moore the night of November 1, the campus did reveal the royal court at Friday's picnic and held the alumni reception that evening.

Friday's coronation recognized Logan Alumbaugh as king and Karlie Monroe as queen. Logan, a physical education major from El Dorado Springs, Missouri, represented the Kinesiology Club. His interests include being active and spending time with family and friends. He is involved

with K-Club, SMSTA of the Education Department and wants to teach and coach.

Karlie, a sociology major from Manhattan, Kansas, represented Alpha Sigma Alpha. She served in the U.S. Army Reserve for the last three and a half years and was deployed for a year in Kuwait. Her plans are to graduate and attend graduate school at LSU. She received the Distinguished Honor Graduate at a Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development course for the U.S. Army.

The MSSU Alumni Association selected two graduates to be honored as Outstanding Alumni: Rob Roy Ratliff, class of 1947, and Michael W. Osborne, class of 1976. This year's Lion Hearted award winners were Don and Gloria LaFerla, supportive







*Top left, Dr. Alan Marble, '79, interim university president, talks with Terry Marion, professor of management and recipient of the 2013 Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Top right, Lion Hearted recipient Gloria LaFerla holds her granddaughter and future Lion Jadyn. Above left, Bob Higgins, '42, Outstanding Alumnus in 1974, speaks with Meagan Adams, '08, Alumni Association coordinator, and her husband, Chance, '10. Above right, Alumni Director Lee Elliff-Pound, '86, greets Jill Smith, '82, (left) and her husband, Dr. David Smith, professor of accounting and Outstanding Professor for 2012-13, as they check in at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center on November 1.*

friends of Missouri Southern and the Alumni Association.

Unable to attend homecoming, Mr. Ratliff sent us an acceptance speech. He was a clandestine officer in the Central Intelligence Agency, serving in the Philippines, the Republic of China in Taiwan, and British Guiana (now Guyana) in South America. He served six years as the senior CIA officer on the White House staff of the National Security Council under three presidents. He was the executive assistant to the director of the CIA and was a member of the CIA inspector general's staff. He was awarded the Intelligence Medal of Merit when he retired in 1980. In 1948, he married a JJC classmate, Rebecca (Becky) Shaw, '47, and they reside in a retirement

facility in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Mike Osborne, a 1976 graduate of MSSC, received a Bachelor's in Business Administration. In September 1976, Mike became secretary treasurer of a startup company called Nutra Blend located in Neosho, Missouri, and in 1989 became president and CEO of Nutra Blend. With his direction and the efforts of many talented employees, Nutra Blend has grown from a startup to revenues of more than \$800 million per year, facilities from coast-to-coast, and average revenue growth of more than 20 percent in the last 11 years. He is an active board member of the American Feed Industry Association.

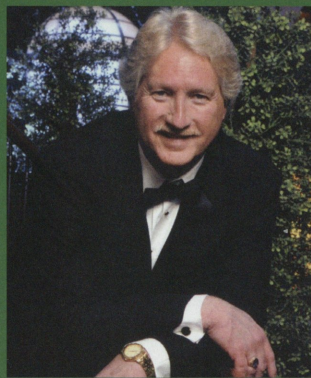
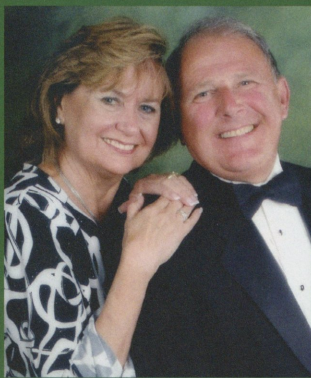
The LaFerlas have both supported Missouri Southern and the Alumni Associa-

tion in many ways, including providing the Welcome Center Desk at the Alumni Center and organizing and hosting fundraising and homecoming events throughout the years. Don serves on the Missouri Southern Foundation Board, and they are both Lionbackers and belong to the MSSU Legacy Society. They have two sons, who are graduates of Missouri Southern State University: Dr. Jeffrey LaFerla, class of 1984; and Dr. Michael LaFerla, class of 1989.

The Homecoming Court was recognized at the December 7 home basketball game, and the alumni awardees will be included in Homecoming 2014 festivities, scheduled for October 3-4, 2014.

— Lee Elliff Pound, '86





*This fall, Missouri Southern awarded the Lion Hearted Award to Gloria and Don LaFerla (far left) and Outstanding Alumni awards to Mike Osborne, '76 (center left) and to Rob Roy Ratliff, '47 (left).*

*Above left, members of the Lion Pride Brass Pep Band perform at the Homecoming picnic November 1 on the Oval.*

*Above, Logan Alumbaugh and Karlie Monroe were named Homecoming King and Queen at the campus picnic November 1.*

*— Photos by Samantha Zoltanski, '14, and submitted photos*

## 'What Rob Roy Ratliff, '47, said'

Outstanding Alumnus Rob Roy Ratliff, who was unable to attend Homecoming, submitted a statement for the Alumni Brunch.

I graduated from Joplin Junior College in 1947. It was a changing and growing campus as veterans from World War II enrolled. We had our first expansion — a student union in an adjoining house.

I was editor of *The Chart* and worked as a reporter for the *Joplin Globe* and *News Herald*, which helped me promote the naming of the building — Blaine Hall — in honor of our dean. That's just one of the memories of the campus where MSSU started.

I regret that I am not here to say something to try to justify my award.

I would use sonorous tones I developed as a news editor and announcer while I was in Joplin High School ("WMBH. Frisco Building, Joplin, Missouri, at the Crossroads of America," I must have announced that thousands of times).

I would use persuasive arguments developed as a nationally ranked high school debater.

I would speak with authority and command derived from my service in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II (although I was only a private first class).

I would include information and knowledge I acquired

as a student at American University in Washington, D.C., where I earned my B.S., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees.

You can't imagine what I would say and do while using these skills and techniques developed during my career as a member of the clandestine service of the Central Intelligence Agency (and if you could guess correctly, you might have to be shot!).

I would call upon my experience at the White House with the National Security Council, drafting papers for the approval of members of the NSC and, eventually, the President — three different Presidents; and as Executive Assistant to the Director of Central Intelligence, and as a member of the CIA Inspector General's staff.

Would any of this help me justify selection as an Outstanding Alum?

Recalling my days at Joplin Junior College, I did remember one special experience. It was chasing student librarian Rebecca "Becky" Shaw around the stacks until she agreed to marry me. We have three daughters and just celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary. It all began at Joplin Junior College. Now that's outstanding!



# Heart of a Lion

## Players and a community honor Moore on and off the field.



Hope and inspiration can rise above tragedy, and for Lion football members, this became their goal after the sudden death of assistant coach Derek Moore.

"It was an absolute tragedy that took place and it would affect anybody that was close to him and it did affect everybody that was close to him," said head football coach Daryl Daye. "There was a lot of positive that came from it, and that's what we tried to focus on."

That something positive Daye credits to his players, the young student-athletes who kept their focus and paid tribute to Moore by playing as hard as they could.

On the evening of November 1, Moore was shot and killed in what police called a targeted shooting in a Joplin movie theater parking lot. It was the night before Homecoming 2013, and a joint decision between coaches and administrators canceled the parade, game and other events scheduled for Saturday. Daye said it was the right call, but he wants everyone to know that Moore continued to lead even after his death.

"He inspired young men to overcome," Daye said. "That's what a coach does. His life finished, but it finished on a strong note because he inspired young

men to overcome tragedy."

Moore was relatively new to the Lion squad, having moved to Joplin in April to be the offensive line coach at Southern. Previously, he spent three seasons working with the offensive line at D-I Western Illinois University. Daye characterized Moore as a good guy with a great smile and a strong Christian faith. And, Moore had the ability to drive his players to do their best.

"Derek was a quiet, fun-loving young man, who always seemed to have a smile on his face," said Dr. Alan Marble, '79, interim university president. "He loved football, but he loved his players even more."

In the days after the tragedy, Marble shared #MOSOSTrong, which had gained momentum on Twitter. The hashtag came to symbolize a community that rallied to remember a beloved coach and Lion. Messages and gifts poured in from the Joplin community and around the country as the story went national.

"So many people reached out. It just humbles you that so many people cared," Daye said.

The community also united for Moore's 6-year-old son, Elijah, when Marble and Athletics Director Jared Bruggeman started a trust fund. Marble said it was a natural

response to help secure a future for Elijah.

Moore was a dedicated father and so proud of his son, Daye said.

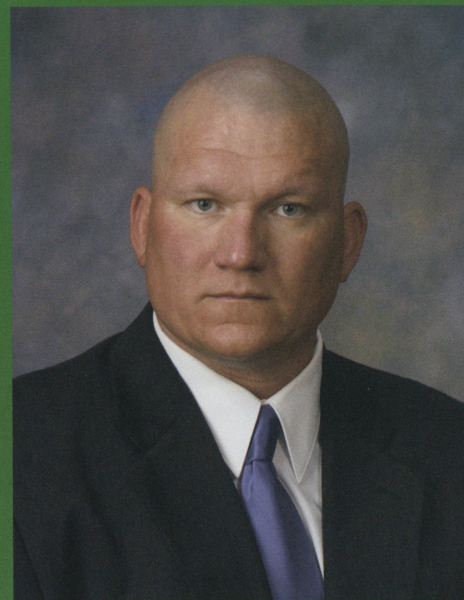
"A day didn't go by that Derek wasn't on the phone with him telling him that he loved him and cared about him," he said.

Daye wants Moore's story to be one of triumph, as evidenced by the way the Lions overcame grief and channeled their energies into winning the final two games of the season, most notably the emotional 35-21 win at Pitt State on November 16.

"I don't think I saw anybody who wasn't crying after that game," Daye said. "He was coaching right along with us."

"When I saw that sun going down over the stadium there at the very end of the game, and I saw the score, and I saw the time, and I knew we were going to win it, I was just like, 'Enjoy that one, bro.' I kind of had a little smile and thought about him."

— Rhonda Clark, '00



A fund has been established for Elijah Moore, the 6-year-old son of assistant coach Derek Moore. Those wanting to give online can do so via the Missouri Southern Foundation giving page. Please indicate you are giving for the Elijah Moore fund in the gift restriction box. If you'd like to give in person, you can donate at the Main Street location of Commerce Bank in Joplin at 211 Main Street, Joplin, MO 64801. For more information, please contact Commerce Bank at 417-626-4000.



Derek Moore, offensive line coach for Lions football in 2013. — Photos by Mike Gullett





# Hear him

# ROAR

Marble joins the administrative ranks  
to lead the Lions forward and upward.





Facing page left, Dr. Alan Marble, '79, interim president of Missouri Southern, greets students as they come to class the first week of the fall semester. Left, Marble conducts his first meeting with the faculty in August 2013. Center, green and gold surround Marble at the First Year Experience Kick-Off Cookout on August 16. Right, Marble greets visitors attending the August 19 unveiling of the lion on the Oval. — Photos by Liz Spencer, '14, and Curtis Almeter, '13

This may be his alma mater, but Dr. Alan Marble, '79, didn't return to Missouri Southern just as an alumnus or fan but in a different role this time: the presidency.

After being announced as the interim president for the university in June, Marble assumed his duties on campus July 1. Prior to this position, he retired from Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri, where he served the college for 27 years. Marble was president of Crowder from 2006-13.

He has fond memories of when he was a student at Southern in the 1970s.

"It used to be much smaller," said Marble of the campus. "All the new things on campus are incredible. The new buildings are so impressive; the Health Sciences Building and Beimdiek are beautiful. It's been great seeing how the campus has grown and beautified. I love being back here."

Marble was one of Dr. Conrad Gubera's students. Marble credits Gubera, professor of sociology and international studies, with instilling a passion for sociology.

"Dr. Gubera challenged me and encouraged me," Marble said. "I really have an admiration for the faculty. They are brilliant and dedicated to seeing the light bulb go on above students' heads. Southern has really become the shining star in the region for higher education."

Gubera expressed admiration for his former student.

"I'm always very proud of our students when they achieve success," said Gubera, who has been instructing students at Southern for 46 years. "I hope the best for him. This is a wonderful opportunity, not only for him but for the university. He's a real academic and has a real practical side.

He has his feet on the ground, anchored with hopes and dreams. I've always told my students to believe in what they are doing, and he is doing just that."

As president, Marble believes in an open-door policy, hoping increased communication will help strengthen university enthusiasm.

"This is a great institution, a great university," Marble said. "We just need to step on the gas and find our way forward and upward together. I would love to see good morale overall on campus. I would be fulfilled to see smiles on the faces of faculty and staff and their heads held high and for them to really understand what a great job they do."

Noah Triplett, junior biology major and president of the Student Senate, is encouraged with the new interim president.

"Personally, I like him," said Triplett. "Professionally, he seems more reserved and genuine, as if he doesn't need to try to care about the school and the people in it, he simply does. I would say (Marble is) more intimate and conversational. He listens more attentively when people are speaking, and I think that that says a lot about his character."

Marble has dedicated his career to lifelong learning and higher education. He said his presidency will be filled with opportunities to improve the university he loves. Marble attributed university success as a group effort, calling on faculty, staff and students to grow together.

He also hopes to strengthen community ties.

"I was really proud of how Southern and the community worked together after the tornado," he said. "To see the support and togetherness, I'm just proud. In the future, I hope to see that grow."

— Sydney Marsellis, '14

## DR. ALAN MARBLE, '79

### Hometown

Anderson, Missouri

### Education

Ph.D. in higher education

administration, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2006

Master's in psychology, Pittsburg State University, 1988

Bachelor's in psychology, Missouri Southern State University

### Personal

#### Times he changed his major:

Four; earned a 3.6 GPA

#### Favorite place on campus:

Starbucks in the library

#### Favorite U.S. President:

Abraham Lincoln

#### Favorite movie: "Juno"

#### Favorite books: Anything historical

**Favorite musical artists:** Beatles, Pink Floyd, Nickelcreek, Nora Jones

#### Favorite places to eat in Joplin:

Crabby's Seafood Bar & Grill and Mythos

#### Family:

Lori, his wife of 19 years; daughter from a previous marriage, Jessica, 25; sons Dexter and Logan, 17

**Words of wisdom:** Work hard, play by the rules, stick with it, and believe in yourself.



@AlanMarble

Follow Dr. Marble on Twitter





# **MIAA CHAMPIONS**

Top honor highlights stellar season for Lions baseball.

The 2013 baseball team proved to be one of the best group of players so far for head coach Bryce Darnell as this past year's Lions won the 2013 MIAA Tournament Championship and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2001.

"It was a great experience," Darnell said of the win over conference foe Missouri Western. "The way we won the game on a walk-off homer was truly what dreams are made of."

The team won its first MIAA title since the 1992 season and moved on to play in the Central Region Tournament in Mankato, Minnesota. Southern would open the tournament as the sixth seed and face off with host and No. 1 seed

Minnesota State University.

But what came before that tournament could be described by some as storybook or even hard to envision, but the 2013 Lions played one of the best final months of a season in recent memory.

The Lions took two-out-of-three at Southwest Baptist on April 19-20, and split a double-header at Pittsburg State on April 24. Next, the Lions would face the No. 1 team in the MIAA and the No. 5 nationally ranked Missouri Western Griffons for the final regular-season series.

What should have been a three-game series was shortened to just a single, double-header due to weather. Needing to win one game to secure a first-round MIAA Tournament home series, the

Lions did just that and more when a Zack Steadman single to center field in the bottom of the ninth scored Dane Kolkmeier and lifted the Lions over the Griffons, 8-7, in game one. Western won game two of the double-header, but the Lions secured the No. 3 seed in the MIAA Tournament and hosted Northeastern State the following weekend at Joe Becker Stadium.

Southern took three-out-of-four in the season series from Northeastern State, but the RiverHawks took game one of the three-game series, winning 4-2. Facing elimination, the Lions hung on to win game two, 6-5, and won the deciding game, 5-3, to move on to Kansas City and Community America Ballpark.





*Facing page left, the Lions celebrate after they win the MIAA Tournament Championship on May 11 at CommunityAmerica Ballpark in Kansas City, Kansas. Above, the team proudly displays the championship trophy and banner. Far left, Brett Abell, senior pitcher, put in a complete-game win in the early games of the MIAA Tournament. Left, Dallas Burke, senior utility player, was one of three Missouri Southern players to have an RBI in the final game to secure the MIAA title.*

— Photos by Justin Maskus

There, the Lions won their first two games, downing Pittsburg State, 9-0, by way of the run rule, and then taking out Missouri Western, 4-3, to advance to the Championship game.

Southern got complete-game wins from both Brett Abell and Ryan Bates in the first two games of the tournament. Western would fight back through the loser's bracket to match up with the Lions in the championship game, needing to defeat Southern twice to take the title.

The Griffons took game one of the championship, 12-2, as they scored early and often and won by way of the run rule. However, the Lions weren't out and played a game for the ages against Western in the winner-take-all final.

The Griffons went ahead 2-0 after they batted in the top of the seventh, but the Lions scored three runs in the bottom

half of the inning to go up 3-2 after seven. Michael McCoy, Dallas Burke and Sam Ryan had RBIs in the inning.

After Western tied the game at three in the top of the ninth, the same trio of McCoy, Burke and Ryan went to work. With two outs, McCoy and Burke both singled, putting runners at first and second. That brought Ryan to the plate.

The senior catcher worked the count full and then calmly hit a ball to right field that cleared the fence for a walk-off home run, giving the Lions the 2013 MIAA Championship and the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Not to be missed in Ryan's heroics was the complete-game win by Drew Noble as Southern had complete-game wins in all three of its wins in the tournament.

At the Regional, the Lions faced off with Minnesota State in the opening

game. Abell and the Maverick's starter Jason Hoppe battled toe-to-toe as the two held the opposing offense scoreless into the 11th inning.

Hoppe exited after throwing 10 and two-thirds of an inning, while Abell went the full 11, both leaving with no score. Someone had to win, however, and despite the Lions' bullpen holding the Mavericks scoreless for two more innings, Minnesota State executed a safety squeeze to score the game-winning run in the bottom of the 14th inning.

Southern would go on to fall to MIAA rival Central Missouri in its next game, ending its season with a 34-22 overall record and giving Southern baseball fans one of the most fun and entertaining runs in recent memory.

— Justin Maskus,  
Athletic Media Relations Director



# THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE *Home*

New era begins for baseball Lions with a 600-seat stadium.

Missouri Southern State University is another step closer to building a baseball stadium on campus, following the announcement in October that approximately half the funds needed have been raised.

At an estimated cost of \$2.5 million, the new stadium will be built to the east of Fred G. Hughes Stadium and adjacent to the MSSU Softball Complex. The recently announced north end zone facility will house the locker room and offices for the baseball program, and all of these facilities are located in the Robert W. Plaster Sports Complex.

"Joplin already has some great baseball facilities and this is going to add to them," said athletic director Jared Bruggeman. "We want to share it in order to bring tournaments and events to the region."

The facility will feature a state-of-the-art synthetic turf field to address weather and maintenance issues, regulation

lighting, home dugout with a bathroom, batting cages, bullpens, a viewing deck, concessions, and fan seating for up to 600. This stadium will enable MSSU to host NCAA regional and national events.

"We treasure our history at Joe Becker Stadium," said Matt Nelson, '96, baseball alumnus and fundraising committee chair. "I have many memories there that I cherish, but it's time to take the next step for our student-athletes and for the university to bring baseball to campus."

Fundraising efforts have been underway for some time. Weeks before the tornado struck Joplin in 2011, the Robert W. Plaster Foundation pledged two substantial seven-figure gifts to the Missouri Southern Foundation, with a portion of one of the gifts to be used to help fund the construction of a baseball field on campus.

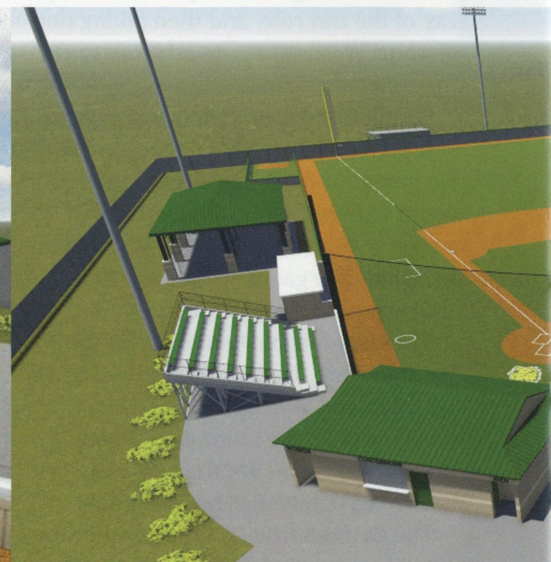
"The campaign took a backseat as the community healed," said JoAnn Graffam, executive director of the Foundation, "but

the time came to reinvigorate the effort, and we're excited to be moving forward again. We're thankful to the many donors that already have supported this project."

Graffam said lead donors include the Robert W. Plaster Foundation; Snyder Construction Company; Hiland Dairy; Joplin Building Material; the friends and family of Dr. Patrick Thompson, who named the press box in his memory; Southwest Missouri Bank, sponsor of the outfield viewing deck; an anonymous donor who named the batting cage in the memory of former hitting coach Mike Hagedorn; and Larry Hickey, a long-time supporter of MSSU baseball. Many friends and alumni also have given contributions to the campaign, including a significant gift from an anonymous donor.

For information and to make contributions to the campaign, contact the Missouri Southern Foundation at 417-625-9396.

— From staff reports



Artist renderings show depictions of the Dr. Patrick Thompson ('76) Press Box, left, and the Southwest Missouri Bank Viewing Deck. — Submitted photos





Left, Matt Nelson, '96, former baseball Lion and fundraising committee chair, addresses supporters at the press conference October 17 in Hearnest Hall. Information about fundraising efforts for the new stadium were announced at the event. Right, Elisa Bryant (right), '04, development officer for major gifts with the Missouri Southern Foundation, looks over the new stadium plans with Randy Graham (left), a parent of a Lion baseball player, and Fred Warden, '89. Warden played for the baseball Lions from 1985-88. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13

## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Be a part of history in the making. Naming opportunities, donor wall giving levels, and bricks and benches are available for the Missouri Southern Baseball Stadium Project. All donors will be recognized on the field at an Opening Day Donor Recognition ceremony, and all gifts are charitable donations through the Missouri Southern Foundation. For more information on this project, call 417-625-9396. Go online to see the video on the baseball stadium campaign at [youtu.be/ubnejSTqFfo](https://youtu.be/ubnejSTqFfo) or scan the QR code.



IN MEMORY OF  
MICHAEL HAGEDORN

The batting cage will be named in memory Missouri Southern's former hitting coach, thanks to an anonymous donor. — Submitted photos



# A LOOK BACK

For 100 years, Joe Becker hosted baseball greats, including Southern's Lions.

In 1913, the *Joplin Globe* sponsored a contest to name the newest athletic facility in town. The winner, Effie Record, beat out other contestants with a simple name: Miners Park. For her effort, she received a ticket to a month of baseball games.

This was a coveted prize back then. The facility was intended for multipurpose usage by area residents, and the name was chosen specifically because it made no reference to Joplin, Missouri, or baseball. Since its opening, the stadium has hosted baseball, football, circuses, rodeos, horse shows and even sunrise Easter services.

And, since 1977, Miners Park, now known as Joe Becker Stadium, has been home to the Missouri Southern baseball Lions, which started in 1972.

While the Lions and their fans have enjoyed and appreciated Joe Becker, Missouri Southern is working toward building a stadium on campus in the next few years that will feature synthetic turf to address weather issues, fan accommodations that will enable the school to host NCAA regional and national events, and nearby training facilities for injured players. With Joe Becker celebrating its 100th, birthday, however, it's time to look back and say



thank you in preparation for the next chapter in Lion baseball.

*Joplin Globe* archives told about a rumor that unmarked graves were beneath the right field hill. Former MSSU baseball coach Warren Turner has heard those rumors.

"Some people even thought Mickey Mantle was buried there," said Turner of the baseball legend who got his professional start at the field.

Turner took over the Southern baseball team in 1977 and made the stadium his pet project. Turner, his ground crew, and players gave the stadium the TLC it needed to become a groomed ballpark.

Players and coaches from all over praised the condition of the field, and teams from northern states loved to come to Joe Becker for the warmer weather and the great playing conditions. Turner was often found out on the field running equipment.

"People traveling through Joplin would stop in and ask to have their picture taken in Mantle's shortstop position or in the dugout," Turner said.

"Warren Turner is the reason Joe Becker is what it is," said former Memorial High

School baseball coach Jerry Chew, '60. "He saved it. He had high standards, and he brought in first-class people and players."

One of those people was Turner's friend the late Melvin "Mutt" Miller, who enhanced the whole ballpark experience with Muttburgers in the concession stand. The smell of the burgers and grilled onions attracted people who were not even there to watch baseball.

A baseball tournament every spring honored Miller's memory. Leroy Wilson also volunteered in the concession, selling Wilson Whoppers.

During Turner's 30 years as head baseball coach, the Lions logged 852 victories and five college World Series appearances. He was instrumental in having the field designated for baseball only and for adding the stadium to the city's historic register. He also enlisted help from the Missouri National Guard to level the outfield.

Bryce Darnell, '97, who played baseball from 1994-96 for the Lions, took over as head coach after Turner retired in 2007, and the team maintained its winning tradition with a 14-9 record at home last season and an MIAA Championship.

Turner said Miners Park was built in

1913 at Third and High streets in the center of town. Joplin's first baseball team began in 1899. The Miners and the stadium were the pride of Joplin sports fans, and attendance was high. The only down times were for two world wars and two stadium fires. Over the years, fans were treated to some competitive baseball rivalries and impressive players, many of whom were subsequently called up to the Major League: Stan Musial, Joe Garagiola, Ty Cobb, Ken Boyer and Mickey Mantle.

Cloyd Boyer, Major League player and scout, spent many hours at Miners Park but only played on the field one time.

"It was a fundraiser for a local family," Boyer said. "The Boyer Brothers All Stars played against the Mickey Mantle All Stars. We really had a good turnout for that one."

Ruth Bond of Joplin recalled the glory days at Miners Park.

"Those Miners games in the '50s were so much fun, and the community really supported them. It was often standing room only," Bond said. "That Mickey Mantle was something else, but I guess he wasn't a very good shortstop. We knew he was going to go places."

Chew, the former Memorial High School





coach, attended Miners games in the '50s and has a baseball card of Mantle, indicating a .383 batting average and 26 home runs.

"The Boys (and Girls) Club is east of right field, and there used to be a tree house where kids would climb up and watch the games," Chew said. "Mantle hit a ball into that tree house."

In 1956, the city of Joplin took possession of the stadium for \$1 and renamed it Joe Becker Stadium. Becker was a professional baseball umpire, scout and former Miners manager.

The field continued to be used by high

school and American Legion teams, along with non-baseball events, until the late 1970s. The city of Joplin continues ownership of Joe Becker Stadium, and through the years the Lions have shared the field with high schools and other special events, such as USA Baseball.

This fall, Southern announced a major campaign for a new baseball stadium, which will give the Lions a permanent home to call their own. While many memories have been made at Joe Becker, the campus will soon be able to give back to the local baseball fans with its new facility.

"It is going to be one of the premier ballparks of its size in the MIAA and it will be a great benefit for the student-athletes as well as to the community," said Jared Bruggeman, director of athletics in a press release about the new stadium.

One can only imagine how many new legends will round the bases over the next 100 years at the Lions' new home. **C**

— Story by Annie Clarkson, '15

Photos by Samantha Zoltanski, '14

*Editor's Note: Historical data from interviews and Joplin Globe and Dorothea B. Hoover Historical Museum archives.*

"I've had the privilege of being associated with Warren Turner and the Southern baseball team for many years. I was honored to sponsor the team. I threw out the pitch at the Larry Hickey Classic Tournament until my arm went limp and I couldn't get the pitch to home plate anymore. Warren Turner is a local hero as far as I'm concerned. He was an excellent coach and mentor and Joe Becker Stadium would not be what it is without him."

Larry Hickey, *Lion-Hearted Award, 2008*



"Between MSSU and USA Baseball, we have had great opportunities to see great baseball at Joe Becker. Few people remember the old wooden stadium, when you could climb up above the press box and sit on the roof. Jack Holden, recently deceased, told me of Mickey Mantle's home run where the ball cleared the white house in left field."

Jim Frazier, *Former MSSU athletic director*



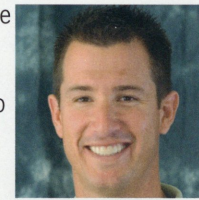
"I was a walk-on from 1974 to 1977. I had been playing at Joe Becker while I was in high school. Ed Wuch was the MSSC baseball coach my first few years. We played a few games at Joe Becker but most games at that time were played on a field south of the college. My son Kyle played high school and legion ball at Joe Becker. As a kid, I remember going to the circus at Joe Becker with my dad and buying one of those little lizards. In later years, I played a pickup game there with Pat Thompson ('76), and I hit a home run at the age of 40."

Mike Carder, '77, *MSSU baseball player*



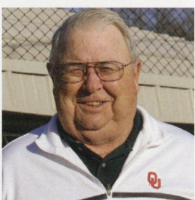
"As a player, my best memory is the camaraderie with my teammates. And the best days were when the crowds were good. Missouri Southern baseball will always be proud of its connection to Joe Becker Stadium."

Bryce Darnell, '97, *MSSU baseball coach 2007-present*



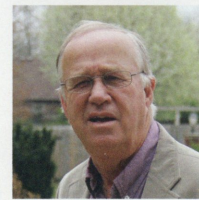
"I have so many great memories at Joe Becker Stadium. I went to the Miners games back in the 1950s. I was at the stadium when it went up in flames in 1971. While working for the city, I was able to help Warren with some improvements such as sod and a sprinkler system."

Jerry Chew, '60, *Memorial High School baseball coach, 1968-75*



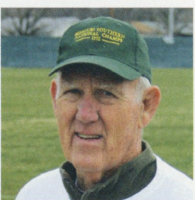
"As a kid, I was at Joe Becker all the time with my dad who played for the Miners. One of my best memories was serving as batboy in a fundraiser game with the Mickey Mantle All Stars against the Boyer Brothers All Stars. I also got to see Satchel Paige pitching for the Kansas City Monarchs. Joe Becker took up a collection at my dad's bowling team and gave me the money to buy a bike. As a coach, I had some great players and great teams. I enjoyed when we were able to get some Division I teams here, like Notre Dame and Arkansas. For a couple of years in the '90s, we hosted the regional championships and ended up going to the World Series. It was great when the stadium was packed. I had tremendous support from my friends and from the community."

Warren Turner, *MSSU baseball coach, 1978-2007*



"The most horrific thing was when Joe Becker Stadium burned down. The baseball team the next year had to play on a temporary facility on campus. The drainage was bad, and the players all called it Lake Wuch. It was fun but trying times putting a team together. But there was camaraderie because all of the players were walk-ons and knew each other from high school sports."

Ed Wuch, *MSSC baseball coach, 1972-76*



"Years ago, when I was a player, we had to schedule games around other events like the circus. They housed the animals in the outfield, so after the circus was gone, there was no grass in the outfield and the smell was unimaginable. Joe Becker has always been a special place for me. It's a link between the past and the present."

Joe Ketchum, '72, *Former assistant MSSU baseball coach*







# NICELY DONE

Alumna slides into success with premiere soccer league.

After finishing out a match at Missouri Western State University in fall 2012, Missouri Southern forward Megan Stueve was approached with what many young athletes would consider a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Shawn Daugherty, owner of the Kansas City Shock, offered Stueve an invitation to try out for his Women's Premier Soccer League team.

"I always had people telling me I should tryout for (professional) teams but didn't think anything of it," said Stueve.

After graduating in December 2012, Stueve traveled to Sunrise, Florida, to give everything she had for four days in the women's professional combine. With professional and international scouts present, Stueve was surrounded by greatness and exposure. Finishing out the combine, she had great evaluations along with ways to improve.

"I am striving to improve my game all around and take those evaluations to be the best that I can be," she said.

Phone calls and emails rolled in, and

Stueve had a tough decision. A path she had only recently discovered was becoming appealing.

"I want to be in Kansas City," said Stueve. "I want to play in front of my hometown, my family, my friends, my boyfriend and the girls I coach."

After consulting friends and family, she accepted the invitation to join the Kansas City Shock.

"Megan was a hard worker and willing to play in any capacity that I needed her," said Wendy Louque, Shock head coach.

Although Stueve played forward for the Southern soccer team, she plays mostly outside midfielder for the Shock.

"We had plenty of offensive players, but really lacked depth on the outside mids," Louque said. "Because of her speed and technical ability, she was a natural candidate for the outside and started most of the season as outside midfielder."

Stueve played in every game for the Shock's season, which started in May, except one weekend when her brother got married.

Stueve also stays busy coaching an under-12 competitive team, KC Select Flames; working with the varsity girls soccer team at Lee's Summit (Kansas) High School; and being a soccer site supervisor for children ages 3-5. She is also director of client services and marketing at Stewardship Wealth Management.

Stueve wants to move up in leagues.

"My dream is to play in the WPSL for three or four years, get the proper coaching, improve my skill level, and maybe one day I could move to the Women's Professional League," she said.

Stueve finds support from friends and family keeps her motivated.

"I was lucky enough to be able to play with Megan as a teammate throughout my four years on Missouri Southern's soccer team," said Shannon Kuhn '12.

"I have watched her skill and determination grow during this time. Her dedication is truly admirable, and her success is well deserved." **E**

— Sam Pogue, '13, and Samantha Zoltanski, '14



# GAME CHANGER

One call morphs this Lion into a Baltimore Raven.

Projected to be selected as early as late second round of the 2013 NFL Draft, former Lion Brandon Williams waited patiently for a call. On April 26, Williams sat with family and close friends at Sportsman's Park in Joplin, Missouri, to watch the NFL Draft. Alyssa Karel, Williams' girlfriend and mother of their 6-month-old son, Ryder, was also present, as was his No. 1 fan, his mother, Shelly Washington.

"I just wanted this so bad for Brandon," said Karel, '11. "All of his friends, family and teammates were there. I never had any doubt he would be chosen night two; it was just a matter of when and where."

With only three players left to be drafted that evening, many people, including Williams, became anxious.

Then, his phone lit up. The room fell silent as Williams answered.

"Brandon got the call and immediately everyone was saying, 'a call from Maryland, a call from Maryland,' Karel said. "When he got off the phone, he leaned over and kissed me and said, 'We're going to Baltimore.' About that time, they announced it on TV, and everyone started cheering. There were many tears of joy."

Williams was ready to accept his new team.

"I am a Raven now," he said. "I am going to get up there and give everything I've got, work hard and show them that I want to be there. I was always told if you are good enough, they will find you."

Williams and Karel have seen their lives change since the call. Williams began his professional career, and their family relocated to Maryland.

"Besides the money, the adjustment has been pretty smooth," said Williams. "The



*Brandon Williams works out with his new team, the Baltimore Ravens. — Courtesy Baltimore Ravens*



Williams was the highest picked NCAA Division II player in the NFL Draft and highest in Missouri Southern history. He began his rookie season for the Baltimore Ravens as a nose tackle in the 2013 season.

## BRANDON WILLIAMS

### Baltimore Ravens

No. 98, nose tackle

### Missouri Southern honors

MIAA Defensive Player of the Year and National Defensive Player of the year, 2012; First-team All-MIAA, 2011 and 2012; three-time All-American, 2010, 2011 and 2012

biggest adjustment has been getting the playbook down and making new friends. My lifestyle has changed a little bit. It's a new city, I bought a house, and my family is up here. I'm wanting to spend as much time with them as possible.

"The physical part is the easiest part. I've been doing this since I was little; the hard part is the mental part. I'm the rookie, the new guy. I just want to take the pressure on to make my family proud."

Williams said Karel played an important role in the beginning of his career.

"She's taken on every role for me to focus on football," Williams said.

Williams' Southern family is also proud of his success.

Daryl Daye, Lions head football coach, said Williams had his share of struggles but is benefiting from his hard work.

"He knows he's starting at the bottom again, and he'll have to put a lot of work in, but he's used to that. He's started at the bottom before," said Daye.

"The special thing about Brandon is that he is a quality person — a good athlete, a good person, a good father. He wants to come back and get his degree, he wants to give back, he wants to donate and help the program. If you had a son, you'd want him to be like Brandon."

Williams attributes much of his success to Daye and his Southern family.



Top, Brandon Williams and Alyssa Karel, '11, celebrate after hearing the news that the Ravens selected Williams in the second round of the NFL Draft last spring. Above, Williams celebrates by giving a kiss to his son, Ryder, at Sportsman's Park in Joplin. — Photos by Sam Pogue, '13

"To tell you the truth, coach Daye was the reason I came to Missouri Southern," Williams said. "He got me where I needed to go. To play for him my senior season to finish it off and him be there and be the head coach, it was a storybook ending."

The local and national spotlight on Williams reflects well on Southern.

"He's made a positive impact on our recruiting; he's been a lot of good publicity for the school," said Daye.

Williams' mother is proud of her son's accomplishments.

"I thank Jesus for this new chapter in his life and chapter for our family," said Washington. **C**

— Sam Pogue, '13, and Sydney Marsellis, '14

## NFL PLAYERS WHO ATTENDED MISSOURI SOUTHERN

Allen Barbre,  
Philadelphia Eagles

Mike Tosaw,  
Buffalo Bills

Richard Jordan,  
Detroit Lions

Jared Kaaiohelo,  
Houston Oilers

James Thrash,  
Philadelphia Eagles

Rod Smith,  
Denver Broncos

Harold Noirfalise,  
Atlanta Falcons

Billy Jack Smith,  
Los Angeles Raiders

Greg Brown,  
St. Louis Cardinals

Ozzie Harrell,  
Kansas City Chiefs

Mike Loyd,  
St. Louis Cardinals

Terry Joyce,  
St. Louis Cardinals

Source: Justin Maskus,  
Athletics Media Relations Director

Keep up with Brandon Williams  
and his new team at  
[www.baltimoreravens.com](http://www.baltimoreravens.com)





Left, junior Shelby Romines holds a team-high 92 bases on the year for Lions softball. Center, senior Michael Juergens earns runner-up status in pole vault at the MIAA Conference meet at Fort Hays State. Right, junior Whitney Hardy finishes third in the high jump at the MIAA Championship at Fort Hays. — Photos by Mike Gullett

# It's a wrap ...

## Southern excels in spring events

### Men's Outdoor Track & Field

Keeping the strong tradition of Missouri Southern men's track and field going, the Lions sent longtime head coach Tom Rutledge into retirement with a solid showing to the outdoor season, qualifying six individuals for the NCAA Championships. They placed second at the MIAA conference meet.

Hosted by Colorado State-Pueblo at the end of May, senior thrower Dustin Green picked up the Lions' lone All-American selection of the national championships in the discus, finishing fifth by launching a throw of 180-11, a mark that was just over a foot behind his school record set at the 2012 national championships. Green also qualified in the hammer throw and shot put, while five other Lions were in action. Sophomore Jeff Fraley qualified in both the 100-meter and 200-meter, narrowly missing the finals of each event. Senior Seth Hackney qualified in the shot put, and senior Michael Juergens qualified in the pole vault. Sophomores Darion Boure and Jayce Thomas qualified for the triple jump, as Boure finished 10th and Thomas finished 18th overall.

With eight individuals earning All-MIAA honors in seven different events, including two champions, along with two all-conference relay teams, the Lions finished second at the conference meet hosted by Fort Hays State. Fraley took home the championship in the 200 meters, while Boure improved his school record in the triple jump by over

two feet to take home the crown in the triple jump. The 4x100-meter and 4x400-meter relay teams of Fraley, Erron Holley, Anthony Price and Clark Tanksley placed second in each event. Green and Juergens earned All-MIAA honors, as each finished runners-up in their events. Green finished second in the hammer throw; Juergens finished runner-up in the pole vault.

With only eight departing seniors and with returners such as Fraley, Boure and Thomas, the future looks bright for the men's track and field program.

### Women's Outdoor Track & Field

Much like the men, the women also had

a strong showing in the outdoor season, as they picked up four All-American honors in three different events at the NCAA Championships. The team collectively had a solid showing at the MIAA Championships, taking third as a team.

The Lions were led at the NCAA Championships by a pair of freshmen, as Brittani Reagan and Kaylee Morgan earned All-American honors in the long jump. Morgan took home fifth place, and Reagan finished eighth. Reagan earned her second All-American selection in the triple jump, finishing seventh. Junior Whitney Hardy gave the Lions their fourth All-American selection, finishing eighth in the high jump. Junior thrower Kylie Cornman also qualified in the shot put, finishing 11th overall to round out the field for the Lions.

The Lions also were strong at the MIAA Championships at Fort Hays, finishing third as a team while picking up seven All-MIAA selections in the process. Sophomore pole vaulter Ashleigh McFarland headlined the group for Southern, taking home the conference title in the pole vault. Sydney Haase placed second in the event, earning All-MIAA honors. Reagan took runner-up honors in the triple jump, and Morgan took third in the long jump. Cornman finished runner-up in the shot put. Hardy and junior sprinter Jasmin Hughes each finished third in the high jump and 200-meter, respectively.

Competing in seven meets, many Lions hit top personal marks in their respective events. With only four graduating seniors, the Lions will contend for more hardware and honors next spring.

Left, senior Andrew Maier prepares his shot, as does senior Andy Hogenmiller, center. The Lions finished with a successful season in the spring. Right, junior Dawn Grass hit six home runs in the 2013 season, giving her 22 for her career. — Photos by Mike Gullett and Justin Maskus





## Softball (26-24)

Despite battling tough spring conditions all season, the softball team wrapped up its second winning season in the past three years, finishing 26-24 overall and 13-15 in the MIAA. Under the guidance of fifth-year head coach Bill Gray, the Lions got off to their best season start since 2001, going 11-4, including winning five of six games at the Seven State Classic in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Behind a strong duo of freshman pitchers and a solid middle part of the order, the Lions were in almost every game during the season, narrowly missing out on the MIAA Postseason Tournament. The Lions were led offensively by second-team All-MIAA selection Shelby Romines, with her .364 batting average, team-high 56 hits, and club-high 92 total bases on the year. Three other Lions hit over .300 on the year, including freshman centerfielder Alana Hester, an All-MIAA honorable mention selection, and junior third baseman Brooklyn Farrell. The Lions had great offensive balance, as six position players collected over 35 hits on the year.

In addition to the strong overall lineup, Southern leaned on two freshman pitchers to lead the pitching staff. Right-handers Haley Kinnison and Sarah Williams each posted winning records while combining to throw 13 complete games. Pitching a team-high 99.1 innings, Kinnison led the club with 95 strikeouts, while tying a single-game

school record for strikeouts. She fanned 14 batters in the Lions' 7-2 win at home over Northeastern State on March 16. In addition, Williams held a team-low 2.55 ERA while making a team-high 26 appearances.

With only two graduating seniors, the Lions return their entire lineup in 2014, along with their top three pitchers, as they look to make a run at the MIAA Championship.

## Golf

The Lions finished a successful season, as the team played in five tournaments in the fall and five more in the spring. Led by sophomore Ryan Buerk and junior Ryan Russell, the Lions averaged a team score of 308.2 on the year, with seven players carding average scores under 79 per round.

In the fall season, the Lions had their two lowest rounds and three of their top 10 lowest rounds of the year at the Missouri Western Central Region Invitational at St. Joseph Country Club, carding rounds of 292, 298 and 306. Buerk carded a single-round, season-low for a Lion, shooting a 67 in the second round, which would propel them to a fifth-place finish in the 20-team tournament. The Lions also had a strong finish at the Missouri Intercollegiate at the Club Porto Cima in Sunrise Beach, Missouri, where they had their highest finish of the year as a team — third in the 16-team tournament and carding a three-round score of 962. The

Lions also played tournaments at Pittsburg State and at MIAA newcomers Lindenwood and Northeastern State in the fall.

The Lions kicked off spring action at the Dave Falconer Memorial Invitational hosted by Arkansas Tech at Chamberlyne Country Club, where they would finish fourth as a team in the 13-team tournament. All five Lions placed in the top 31, including a tie for seventh from Buerk, who would card a two-round score of 150 (+6). The Lions also had a strong showing at the First Federal Invite hosted by Henderson State at Branson Creek GC, carding a season-low for two rounds at 605. With all five Lions again placing in the top 31, Russell had his best showing of the year, finishing in a tie for seventh overall, carding a two-round season-low of 147.

At the Missouri Southern Invitational at Twin Hills Golf Course in Joplin, Southern finished seventh as a team.

Buerk had the Lions' highest individual finish of the year, taking third overall and finishing just one over par over the two days. Capping the year at the MIAA Championships at Paradise Point Outlaw Course in Smithville, Missouri, the Lions finished eighth overall, with Buerk as the Lions' top finisher once again, finishing tied for 17th overall and five over par over the two rounds.

— Travis Blanshan,  
Athletics Media Relations Assistant

# Lions notebook

## Hall of Fame inducts four in September campus ceremony

The 2013 Athletics Hall of Fame Class enshrined four individuals in September.

Yancy McKnight (football, 1993-95) was a three-year starter on the offensive line for the Lions in the early to mid-1990s. He was a three-time All-MIAA pick, while earning All-American honors as a senior and was a member of the 1993 MIAA Championship team. He is the head strength and conditioning coach for football at Iowa State University.

Seth Isringhausen (track and field, 2000-03) is one of the most decorated track and field athletes at Southern. A 15-time All-MIAA honoree, Isringhausen won the 2003 NCAA Division II National Championship in the indoor pole vault. He was a

seven-time national qualifier and was a five-time All-American, earning second-place honors in the indoor pole vault in 2002. A two-time MIAA Champion in the pole vault, Isringhausen was also an accomplished sprinter. Isringhausen is a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper.

Bryce Darnell (baseball, 1993-96) is one of the best catchers in the history of Southern. A three-year starter for the Lions after transferring from the University of Minnesota, Darnell hit .366 in his career at Southern, with 100 runs scored, 169 hits, 111 RBIs, 40 doubles, two triples, nine home runs and 75 RBIs. His best season came in 1995 when he helped the Lions to a 43-13 record. Darnell played in the Arizona Diamondbacks minor league system. He succeeded longtime Southern head coach Warren Turner in 2007.

Darnell has led the Lions to four MIAA Tournaments, as well as the 2013 MIAA Baseball Tournament Championship.

Stacy (Harter) Smith (volleyball & softball, 1991-93) earned All-MIAA, All-Region and All-American honors in 1993 when she helped the Lions to a 38-12 record and the MIAA Championship. She was also part of the 1992 NCAA Division II National Champion team. In volleyball, Harter helped the Lions to an 89-55 record in four seasons. Harter was an assistant coach at Olathe South High School from 1996-98, which won the 1996 Kansas State Championship. She is co-owner of Wildcat Siding in Blue Springs, Missouri.

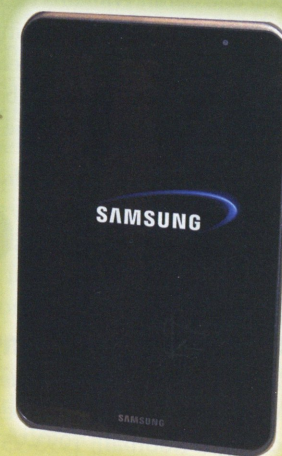
— Justin Maskus,  
Athletics Media Relations Director





# Roary Reads Crossroads Do You?

Take our MoSo trivia challenge and you just might qualify for one of two Samsung Galaxy Tab2 tablets. Then, you can take us wherever you go!



*Question: How many Lion logos has Missouri Southern had since 1937?*

To enter, submit your answer by February 1, 2014 to:  
**AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu**

Hints can be found in the online edition of Crossroads at  
**[www.issuu.com/crossroadsmssu/docs/crfall13](http://www.issuu.com/crossroadsmssu/docs/crfall13)**



# A tale of two engagements

Couples find the perfect setting to say 'Yes' while studying abroad.

Dickens' novel *A Tale of Two Cities* begins, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

For two couples who took part in a Missouri Southern State University study abroad trip in June 2013, *A Tale of Two Cities: London and Paris*, it was the best of times and even better times.

Two MSSU couples came home engaged after proposals were made in those cities.

Jansen Adams, junior management major, and Courtney Caldwell, senior graphic art major, received grants and help from their grandparents to make the trip to London.

"From the time I got her to go on the trip, about seven months ago, I knew," Adams said. "I've been working three jobs to save up the money for the trip and the ring."

Although he had purchased a ring a few days before he left, Adams waited until the last night to make his move.

On that night in London, Adams and Caldwell attended a service at London's Westminster Abbey. Afterward, he proposed in front of Big Ben, the large bell that chimes the hours in the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament in London.

"I was so surprised," Caldwell said. "I felt a rush of adrenaline."

The couple asked a passing stranger to take their picture as Adams got down on one knee.

For them, it is the culmination of a relationship that has existed and slowly grown over the last five years.

They have plans to wed in the summer of 2014.

Tyler Kalbfleisch, junior criminal justice major, and Britni Stanley, senior criminal justice/law enforcement major, had been dating for the last six years.

"I thought it would be cool to propose in Paris," Kalbfleisch said.

That led the two to make a Sunday afternoon visit to Padlock Bridge, actually the Pont de l'Archevêché footbridges over the Seine River. The bridge, built in 1828 near Notre Dame de Paris, is resplendent with "love padlocks" placed on it by young lovers.

"We spray painted the parts of the lock and put our names on them," Kalbfleisch said. "Then you lock them together and attach them to the side of the bridge. We did it on our last day in Paris."

"I didn't know he'd propose," Stanley said. "Looking back on it, I should have



Above, Tyler Kalbfleisch, junior criminal justice major, surprises Britni Stanley, senior criminal justice/law enforcement major, with a marriage proposal this past June in Paris, France. — Submitted photos

thought of this. I kept wondering when he would propose. I had it in my head it would be after graduation."

She said after Adams and Caldwell got engaged in London, Kalbfleisch's plan to propose was known to everyone on the trip but her.

"I was complaining that we weren't engaged," Stanley said.

Kalbfleisch and Stanley are planning a June 2015 wedding.

"We were joking that everyone is going to be signing up for these study abroad trips now," said Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, director of the Institute of International Studies at MSSU, who accompanied the 15 students on the trip.

— From Staff Reports

Left, Jansen Adams, junior management major, proposes to Courtney Caldwell, senior graphic design major, while on a study abroad trip in June to London, England. — Submitted photos







Below, David Matthews '75, displays his artwork at the Post Memorial Reference Library during September. Left, Matthews uses recycled plastic to create sculptures. Right, Matthews' favorite piece, "In Case of Ocean," contains sentimental value and memories, as one side of the his mother's suitcases has a painting of her sitting on the beach and on the other side Matthews painted a fisherman in a small boat landing a shark. Matthews painted the inside as well. — Photo by Samantha Zoltanski, '14

# From **trash** to *art*

## Artist returns to southwest Missouri after world travels.

Throwaway items can become works of art and find their way into galleries across the country.

After traveling the world and sharing his artistic visions with others, David Matthews, '75, returned to Lamar, Missouri, during the fall of 2012.

His multimedia exhibit, featuring paintings, drawings and recycled plastic sculptures, was on display in September at the Post Memorial Reference Library Joplin.

The plastic sculptures were made from materials sent to a factory in Lamar to be recycled.

"These are huge sheets of really heavy, really filthy, muddy, oily nasty things that we wash and we shred and run them through this machine, which melts it all down. Then it is sent off to become everything plastic," said Matthews.

When the machine is restarted, leftover pieces fall to the floor. Some would call this waste, but Matthews feels otherwise.

"These are shapes; this is not waste," he said. "This is art."

Matthews taught himself to mold the plastic while it is still hot and fuse the pieces together.

He plans to create larger pieces, similar to totems. Other pieces featured in Matthews' exhibit were oil paintings on different mediums such as wood, canvas and Masonite. His artwork is being sent to galleries in New York City, New Orleans and Kansas City, Missouri.



Prior to moving to Lamar, Matthews lived in Kansas City for 14 years. He worked with faculty at the Kansas City Art Institute, where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1973. He taught a creative course of drawing, combined with Tai Chi, while at the Institute, along with other unique projects.

"We chalked up our feet and left some patterns with colored chalk on the court," Matthews said. "We strapped lasers to our hands and feet and did art in the dark. We did some fun, funky stuff."

Matthews was born and raised in Joplin, where he had spent time at Missouri Southern during his high school years, when the white house next to Fred G. Hughes Stadium was a coffee house.

"It was real bohemian, with folk music and an old-style bohemian ambiance," he said. "I played guitar and was involved with music there and made a lot of friends that were attending Southern."

While pursuing his K-12 teaching degree at Southern, Matthews enjoyed a media course that prepped him for some on-screen experiences he was not expecting.

Through friends and word of mouth, Matthews has appeared as an extra in music videos and movies. He got a speaking part in the movie "Stay the Same, Don't Ever Change," and he was recently in the movie "Mud Jacket."

After graduating in 1975, Matthews joined the Navy in 1979, got his chef certification, and served active duty for eight years and in the reserves for four years. While in the Navy, Matthews worked as a chef on several ships, but that did not stop him from channeling his inner artist.

"Being a cook, I had access to some bottles, and I was doing a lot of water colors of angels and mermaids," he said. "And, I would put them in the bottles and throw them into the Mediterranean to wash up on the beach."

Matthews never heard from the people who found the bottles.

"I didn't even sign them; that wasn't what it was about," he said. "I thought it might make somebody's day, hopefully, during the war time." **E**

—Samantha Zoltanski, '14



# Lion Tales

By Samantha Zoltanski, '14

*"Follow your dreams. Whatever you put your heart to and whatever you want to do, go do it. The sky is the limit."*

Whitney Fridley, '09

Missouri Southern State University alumnus and owner of Designer Diplomas

WHITNEY FRIDLEY

**Who:** Missouri Southern alumnus, health promotions and wellness, 2009.

**What:** Owner and founder of Designer Diplomas

**Hometown:** Webb City, Missouri.

**How the business started:** When I graduated, I just wanted a unique way to display my diploma, so I came up with the idea of making these (frames). I thought maybe other people would enjoy displaying their diplomas, so I talked to the bookstore. They now have them over at the bookstore and online.

**Secret to Success:** Working hard, doing what you like to do. You have to put in some time to get something out of it.

**Greatest Challenge:** Just getting the word out and letting people know the Designer Diplomas are available, which is probably one of the hardest parts about it.

**Advice:** Follow your dreams. Whatever you put your heart to and whatever you want to do, go do it. The sky is the limit.

**Southern Memories:** Just hanging out with my friends and enjoying the college life.

*Have an entrepreneurial tale to tell? Send Lion Tales information to [Alumni.Assoc@mssu.edu](mailto:Alumni.Assoc@mssu.edu) or call 417-659-LION.*



Whitney Fridley, '09, started her business Designer Diplomas after she created a custom frame for her Missouri Southern diploma. — Photo by Samantha Zoltanski, '14



## Department starts master's program

A new graduate program will help teachers progress as educational practitioners.

Next fall, Missouri Southern will begin offering a master's in science in education with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction. The degree is the second independent graduate program announced by the university in 2013.

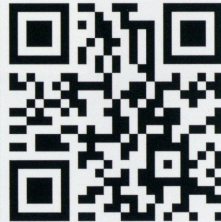
The program is based on a conceptual framework that defines the role of the teacher as a reflective decision maker. The program standards are based on current theories of teaching and learning.

"We feel this new graduate program will help teachers as they seek out opportunities to grow professionally and improve learning for their students," said Dr. Al Cade, interim dean of the school of education.

The program, which will follow a six-credit hour per semester cohort structure, will require 36 credit hours for degree completion. For information, send an email to [tegradprgm@mssu.edu](mailto:tegradprgm@mssu.edu) or call 417-625-9314.



Check out a video of Alex Reed, '11, one of our teacher education graduates, by scanning the QR code or going to [youtu.be/4jZHEEhW4vo](https://youtu.be/4jZHEEhW4vo) on our MSSU YouTube channel. — Submitted photo



## Dean receives honor from Northwest

Dr. Al Cade, interim dean of the school of education, received the Distinguished Alumni Award at the Alumni Awards Banquet in September at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri.

Cade received his bachelor's and master's from Northwest and his doctorate from Saint Louis University.

He has held committee posts with the Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and the Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators. At Southern, Cade directed the MLK Day of Service committee.

He is past president of the Missouri Association for Blacks in Higher Education. He has also been a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Missouri, the City of Joplin Human Rights Commission, and the Joplin Schools

& Community Facilities Committee.

"I could not be more proud of Dr. Cade for receiving this honor," said Dr. Pat Lipira, interim vice president for academic affairs. "It is well-deserved for the many years he has dedicated to our students and alumni."

## Alums earn Joplin teaching honors

Two Missouri Southern education alumnae were recognized last spring with one of the region's most prestigious teaching awards.

Holly Davidson and Sara Reineke received the 2013 Golden Apple Award presented by the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce.

The award, which has been given to four outstanding teachers every year since 1986, allows students ranging from elementary school through high school to nominate teachers from private and public schools for recognition of profound teaching skills.

"What does it mean to win this award?" said Dr. Al Cade, interim dean of the school of education.

"Excellence in the teaching profession, recognition of service, professionalism, and as a change agent in student learning and school culture."

In 2012, three-out-of-four recipients of the award were MSSU alumni. Each year, approximately 60-70 percent of nominees are MSSU graduates.

## Donation updates student laboratory

Thanks to the generosity of two longtime private donors, teacher education students are using a new Apple iMac computer laboratory.

The new lab is equipped with 30 student stations and one teacher station. The computers are set up in pods to facilitate student collaborative learning.

As a leader for teacher preparation in the region, administrators said MSSU must continue to update its facilities to include today's cutting-edge technologies.

"This lab provides both state-of-the-art technology as well as the environment to prepare future teachers for 21st century learning classrooms," said Dr. Deborah Brown, department head, teacher education.

Department faculty members are developing a strategic plan aimed at addressing the issues of space and technology, as well as the professional development needed to keep the program at the forefront of the educational community. Go to [youtu.be/9zcxc9Tyx3E](https://youtu.be/9zcxc9Tyx3E) to see a video of the new lab.

— From staff reports



## Center for Law and Politics opens

French political thinker and historian de Tocqueville said lawyers “serve as arbiters between the citizens.” With this in mind, Missouri Southern has developed a new program that will serve legal practitioners, citizens and government.

In fall 2013, the university announced the establishment of the James R. Spradling Center for Law and Politics within the school of arts and sciences. The center will officially open in January 2014 in Webster Hall.

The mission of the center is to connect students, practitioners and the community through workshops, continuing legal education opportunities and campus presentations. The center will also help facilitate the Mock Trial Program, the Legislative Intern Program and Law Day Activities.

The center is dedicated to the late James R. Spradling. The longtime Carthage, Missouri, attorney and former director of the Missouri Department of Revenue also served as a Carthage municipal judge and taught as an adjunct professor at Southern.

For information on the new center, email [spradlingcenter@mssu.edu](mailto:spradlingcenter@mssu.edu) or call 417-625-3081.

## Shakespeare festival debuts at MSSU

William Shakespeare’s plays have been regaling worldwide audiences for centuries at honorary festivals and theaters.

Now, Missouri Southern is looking to be the home of an annual festival that will feature the famous playwright’s works.

In summer 2013, Dr. Jim Lile, theatre department head, and his departmental colleagues launched the debut of the new festival “MoShakes,” through the performance of the dark play *Macbeth*.

The production was a success, and Lile said he hopes to create an annual festival that will eventually entail two Shakespearean plays each summer.

Lile said Shakespeare’s work is still applicable in today’s society.

“The situations he discusses and the characters he creates are of such a universal nature,” he said, adding that he is already working on next summer’s agenda. “Each subsequent generation discovers Shakespeare for themselves.”

## Math books switch to digital format

The mathematics department is now “bookless,” thanks to a new program called MyMathLab.

The software, available online along with video lectures and practice problems, helps students by having assistance available to them 24/7. It also offers extra options called “help me solve this” and “show me an example.”

Dr. Kerry Johnson, head of the mathematics department, said going bookless has made math courses function more effectively. Cost is also a benefit — once students purchase the software, they owe no extra fees.

Johnson said the idea of moving away from textbooks came up about three years ago, and he is surprised at how smooth the transition was to depart from physical textbooks.

“I didn’t think it would happen this fast,” he said, adding that professors have been pleased with the change. “E-books have just exploded. It is the future.”

## Alumnus publishes novel in new series

Sean T. Poindexter, ’04, released his third novel, *Moth*. Poindexter’s first two books, part of an urban fantasy series called *The Dragon’s Blood Chronicles*, have received positive reviews and were published through Crescent Moon Press.

*Moth* was published by Ambrosia Arts Publishing and marks the beginning of a dark paranormal mystery series.

Visit [www.seanpoindexter.com](http://www.seanpoindexter.com) for more.

## Department leadership changes

The school of arts and sciences grew in 2013 with the addition of the criminal justice administration department.

“We’re really pleased about this change,” said Dr. Richard Miller, dean of the school of arts and sciences.

“We fully anticipate that criminal justice will continue to further the study and understanding of criminal justice through teaching, service to the university and service to the community.”

Dr. Michael Hulderman is the interim department head in criminal justice administration. Other departments also saw changes in leadership. The art department welcomed its new department head, Christine Bentley, who comes to Missouri Southern from the University of Indianapolis, where she taught art and art history. She is a Ph.D. candidate in art history from Indiana University-Bloomington.

Ward Bryant was named interim head of the communication department, and Dr. Steve Smith is interim head of the social sciences department.

— From staff reports



### **VITA offers free tax assistance**

A free tax preparation service that helps area residents while giving accounting students valuable experience has returned to Missouri Southern. Dr. David Smith, head of the accounting and finance department, orchestrated the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program last spring and said the program will return with increased hours and volunteers in spring 2014.

The national program was revived by Ann Wolfe, a senior accounting and computer science major, who transferred to Southern from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she was the VITA site coordinator.

"I love how it feels to do good for others. It makes me like who I am," Wolfe said.

Accounting majors must pass required IRS tests to take part and can obtain up to three credit hours for the service. Send an email to Smith at [smith-d@mssu.edu](mailto:smith-d@mssu.edu) for information or to check qualifications for assistance.

### **Partnership aids completion of BSBA**

Crowder College students finishing an Associate in Business Administration can count their credits toward a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Missouri Southern.

By a method of "dual-admittance," students graduating from Crowder are able to benefit from courses taught by Southern professors without leaving their campus. The setup is a new academic partnership. Showcasing the flexibility of both institutions, these extensive classes are offered in Neosho, Missouri; online through MSSU; and at the MSSU campus.

### **First independent master's set for '14**

The Robert W. Plaster School of Business marked a major accomplishment this fall by developing Missouri Southern's first independent master's program. The university received approval from the Missouri Department of Higher Education to offer a Master of Accountancy beginning in fall 2014.

The degree will offer a special accelerated track for students still completing their bachelor's. The on-campus program requires 30 hours for completion.

Accounting majors who meet the requirements can apply for the accelerated degree option during their junior year and complete the requirements for their Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Master of Accountancy simultaneously.

### **School accreditation reaffirmed**

The Accreditation Council for Business

Schools and Programs reaffirmed accreditation of the Robert W. Plaster School of Business at the ACBSP Annual Conference in Salt Lake City in late June.

"We're extremely pleased with this reaffirmation by the ACBSP," said Dr. John Groesbeck, dean of the school. "Meeting the high standards of this accreditation council validates the exceptional quality of education we offer."

ACBSP, the only business accrediting organization for both two- and four-year institutions, requires schools to affirm their quality by preparing a thorough self-study and leading council representatives through a successful site visit. Accreditation lasts for a 10-year period.

### **New institute assists entrepreneurs**

A new institute will assist entrepreneurial groups and individuals with the creation and expansion of business ventures with the establishment of the Institute for Business Innovation, Leadership and Development this fall.

"We are excited about this new initiative and anticipate it becoming a nexus for bringing the educational assets of the state and nation to our region," said Dr. John Groesbeck, dean.

Offerings will include five entrepreneurship certificates along with credentials upon completion of the five units; Six Sigma black and green belts; lean production and process improvement certificates; human resources training and development programs; international trade development programs; logistics, transportation and supply chain seminars; computing and technology training and seminars, and additional services in the future, focused on specific business sectors such as health care.

Visit [business.mssu.edu](http://business.mssu.edu) or call 417-625-3128 for more information.

### **CIS, Tech departments reassigned**

The industrial engineering technology and computer information services departments are now part of the Robert W. Plaster School of Business. The reassignment of the departments, formerly part of what was the school of technology, happened at the end of the spring 2013 semester, when the school of health sciences was established to focus on programs centered on health care.

"This change gives our school the opportunity to welcome two established departments, both of which play a significant role in the realm of business," said Dr. John Groesbeck, dean of the school. "We feel this will enhance communication and will benefit both faculty and students."

— From staff reports



## Radiology celebrates pass-rate record

The traditionally high pass rates of the programs within the school of health sciences received another boost this fall when the department of radiology celebrated its 13th consecutive year of having a 100-percent pass rate for students taking the national board exam following graduation.

"Passing the test is the best indicator that our students are well prepared when they finish the program," said Alan Schiska, head of the radiology department.

To prepare students for the exam, the department created a test-intensive program featuring up to four tests each week. This method of continual quizzing urges students to study more frequently and absorb the material.

Missouri Southern students typically score within the 90th to 99th percentile at the national level. From 2008 through 2013, 15 students scored in the 100th percentile.

The retention rate for students has also been consistently high.

"We're lucky that we have good people who hang in there," Schiska said.

## Open house screens for health issues

The MSSU / Franklin Technology Centers' Respiratory Care program celebrated National Respiratory Care Week with an open house on October 24 in the Health Sciences Building at Missouri Southern State University.

The program offered several services, including screenings for pulmonary function and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, alpha-1 antitrypsin testing, blood pressure / pulse oximetry tests, and MDI instruction.

Sherry Whiteman, a respiratory care faculty member, said more than 50 community and campus members attended.

"Events like this allow us to do some education with the community about current health care issues or to identify potential disease signs and symptoms," Whiteman said. "We are also able to show everyone what we do as respiratory therapists and spread the news about our profession."

## Dental hygiene grad receives award

Kalena "Dee" Humphrey, a 2010 dental hygiene graduate and resident of Grove, Oklahoma, received the Outstanding Prevention Advocate award from the State of Oklahoma - Indian Health Services.

Humphrey has worked as a dental hygienist at the Sam Hider Health Center in Jay, Oklahoma, for the past three years. The clinic is part of the

Cherokee Nation Health Services.

Humphrey also administers health promotion programs, including a fluoride varnish program for Head Start as well as for disabled children, a sealant program, and a public school tobacco prevention program.

In 2011, her employer recognized her as Employee of the Year. She has also won two grants in the past two years.

"I love that I can be a part of changing so many lives and influencing many toward better oral health," Humphrey said.

## Clinic provides service to community

The dental hygiene program offers more than an education for students — it provides a service to the community. As part of the program, dental hygiene students operate a dental clinic for patients, including MSSU students, employees and area residents.

The clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the spring, summer and fall semesters.

Patients receive preventative services, including dental cleaning by dental hygiene students, who are supervised by dental hygiene faculty. X-rays, and other preventative services are provided. Restorative services, including extractions, dentures, fillings and crowns, are not offered, but referrals are made to the patients' dentist of record.

Send an email to [dentalhygiene@mssu.edu](mailto:dentalhygiene@mssu.edu) with name, phone number, and date of last dental cleaning to schedule an appointment with the clinic.

— From staff reports



Senior radiology students Lynsey Setser (left) and Mike Wheeler review an X-ray in one of the labs in the Health Sciences Building. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13



Top photo, Kalena "Dee" Humphrey, '10, received the Outstanding Prevention Advocate Award from the State of Oklahoma - Indian Health Services this year. Above, 2013 spring graduate of the dental hygiene program Shauna Stansberry provides preventative services at Missouri Southern's dental clinic.





## CLASSNOTES

<sup>19</sup>70s

**Karen (Nehring) Haslett**, '74, published *Acts of Courage: Strategies to End Bullying*.

**Gene Koester**, '76, was honored as one of *Show Me the Ozarks Magazine's* Top Ten Super Educators.

**Dr. William S. Hughes**, '79, is a physician at Freeman Health System in Joplin, Missouri.

**Dr. Alan Marble**, '79, is Interim President of Missouri Southern State University.

<sup>19</sup>80s

**Pamela Hosp**, '80, was selected as "Woman of the Year" for 2013 by the Preceptor Lambda XI chapter of Beta Sigma Phi in Joplin, Missouri.

**Theresa Thompson**, '83, is director of First Year Experience, Missouri Southern State University.

**Karen Secrist**, '84, is principal of Stapleton Elementary School in Joplin, Missouri.

**Steve Miles**, '87, is the location pastor for Jubilee Church in Washington, Missouri, and also substitute teaches at the public school.

**Lisa Robinson**, '89, was recognized at the America's Small Business Development Center's Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, receiving the 2013 State Star on behalf of the Missouri Southern Small Business & Technology Development Center.

<sup>19</sup>90s

**Darren Cook**, '90, was honored as one of *Show Me the Ozarks Magazine's* Top Ten Super Educators.

**Erik Schrader**, '90, is president and general manager of KSNW-TV in Wichita, Kansas.

**LeAnne (Whitted) Scheele**, '91, is the senior event manager for Hilton Worldwide in Branson, Missouri.

**Kandy Frazier**, '92, was honored as one of *Show Me the Ozarks Magazine's* Top Ten Super Educators.

**Stephanie (White) Brady**, '95, is the director of programs at the Independent Living Center in Joplin, Missouri.

**Donna "Gail" (Reynolds) Chitwood**, '95, is the administrative director of Overcomers Harvest in Ava, Missouri, and working on a bachelor's in psychology.

**Jennifer Beem**, '96, was honored as one of *Show Me the Ozarks Magazine's* Top Ten

Super Educators.

**Rob Lundien**, '96, was selected for the North Kansas City School District's 2012-13 Culture of Excellence in Teaching Honor Cadre and was recognized at the NKC Schools Board of Education meeting, as well as the Northland KC Regional Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Education Banquet.

**Amy (Heeter) Barnes**, '97, is a proposal analyst for Jack Henry and Associates.

**David Pyle**, '97, was honored as one of *Show Me the Ozarks Magazine's* Top Ten Super Educators.

**Mark Lloyd**, '99, is dean of student retention, Missouri Southern State University.

**Nathan "Tater" Camp**, '99, received his fifth Platinum Award for Quality Inns & Suites in Waco, Texas.

<sup>20</sup>00s

**William Palmer**, '02, received his master's in clinical psychology in 2004 and his Ph.D. in 2007 from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He has also earned a graduate certificate in gerontology and works as a geropsychologist at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia, Missouri.

**Jeff B. Woodmansee**, '03, is a law librarian, legal research professor, and faculty member at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Bowen School of Law. His article, "When Soldiers Go Social on Politics," was featured in *The National Law Journal* in April 2013.

**Brandon Davis**, '04, is the AOS director for BKD in Joplin. He is a tax manager and member of BKD National Manufacturing & Distribution Group and retail and business services team.

**Rebecca (Morris) Hernandez**, '04, has earned a master's in education and is a Spanish teacher for Marshall Public Schools.

**Amber Phipps**, '04, is the vice president and chief operating officer for the American Esoteric Laboratories.

**Joelleen (Harrington) Lowe**, '07, graduated from Assemblies of God Theological Seminary with a master's in counseling.

**Phillip Dowden**, '08, is assistant director of sports information at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.

**Deborah George**, '08, works as lead accountant for EFCO, a Pella Company.

**Tricia Pham**, '09, recently received her master's and is a documentary consultant/

screener for the Sundance Institute in Los Angeles. She also does freelance work as a documentary producer.

<sup>20</sup>10s

**Sarah Gowdy**, '10, is a librarian for Bentonville (Arkansas) Public Schools.

**Justin Cartwright**, '10, works as a graphic artist for NWA Media in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

**Brooke (Larimore) Rohlffing**, '11, earned her master's degree in communication at Missouri State University and is managing the local access cable channel for the Park Hill School District in Kansas City, Missouri. She serves as producer, on-camera talent and project manager.

**Angela Tingblad**, '11, is a staff accountant for IVESCO, LLC in Springdale, Arkansas.

**Landon Adams**, '12, is student activities director, Missouri Southern State University.

**Jennifer Bujarski**, '12, is an internal auditor for Arvest Bank in northwest Arkansas.

**Kevin Bujarski**, '12, is attending graduate school at John Brown University in pursuit of his teaching license.

— Reports from MSSU Alumni Association office

## FUTURELIONS

Elizabeth (Flanigan), '11, and Jeb Cook, '13, welcomed twins Barrett Thomas and Lincoln Calloway on January 7, 2012.

Eric, '97, and Amy (Heeter) Barnes, '97, welcomed Keith Christian on December 18, 2012.

Jesse and Beth Wright, '11, welcomed Gilliam Leslie on February 8, 2013.

Derek Strickland and Jamie Combs, '02, welcomed Deakin Cole on March 25, 2013. Deakin joins sister, Haven.

Donnie, '00, and Syeda Greenlee welcomed daughter Zeina on March 29, 2013.

Isaac and Jennifer "Nicki" Hermann, '08, welcomed Annabelle Jolee on July 11, 2013.

Justin, '10, and Vanessa Cartwright welcomed Boston Jade on September 18, 2013.



## IN MEMORIAM

## JOPLIN JUNIOR COLLEGE

**Robert Sheffler**

February 11, 2013

**Flora Harrison**

March 14, 2013

**Loraine Rush Bartlett**

May 13, 2013

**Ron F. Oney**

July 9, 2013

**Patricia A. Johnson**

July 13, 2013

**Marilou Anderson**

August 2, 2013

**Glenda Gurley**

August 19, 2013

**Lloyd O. Dedrickson**

August 22, 2013

**Bonnie June O'Brien Robinson**

September 6, 2013

**Jim R. Gaskill**

September 29, 2013

## FRIENDS OF SOUTHERN

**William V. Courtright**, 83, died April 4, 2013, in Joplin Missouri. Bill was born January 2, 1930, in Caldwell, Kansas to Charles and Lillian (Bacon) Courtright. He earned a bachelor's at University of Kansas School of Pharmacy in 1954. He entered the U.S. Army, serving from 1954-56 and in 1957, moved to Baxter Springs, Kansas. He became owner of Milo Chew Drug in 1970 and retired in January 1994.

He was a member of St Joseph's Catholic Church Baxter Springs, board member of KXMS Classical Music Society of Missouri Southern State University, board member of the Cherokee County Ambulance Association, volunteer with St. John's Hospital Auxiliary, and member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at Kansas University. Bill married Mariam Joseph on June 9, 1962. She survives.

**John Q. Hammons**, the hotel magnate and philanthropist, died May 26, 2013. Hammons, who was born in 1919 in Fairview, Missouri, developed 210 hotel properties in 40 states during his career, including Joplin's Holiday Inn and nearby convention center. His company also owns the Residence Inn by Marriott in Joplin, as well as several hotels in Springfield, Missouri, and northwest Arkansas. Hammons also funded a \$210,000 gift for a scholarship program at Missouri Southern State University for poor and minority students. Hammons earned a degree from Southwest Missouri State Teachers College (now Missouri State University) in Springfield. Hammons and his wife, Juanita, donated millions of dollars to many organizations over the past five decades.

**Patricia Lee (Campbell) New**

June 2, 2013

**James D. Mailes**

September 17, 2013

## 1950s

**Richard L. Allison**, '50

November 13, 2011

**Genevieve C. Gilbreth**, '50

August 11, 2013

## 1960s

**Treva J. Dawson**, '62

May 20, 2013

## 1970s

**Rose Martin**, '70

March 29, 2013

**John M. Adams**, '72

March 26, 2013

**Connie Mieir**, '74

March 20, 2013

**Candace "Jeanne" Holz**, '75, '93

July 14, 2013

**Daniel E. Geisler**, '77

July 29, 2013

**James O. Crouch**, '78

October 18, 2012

## 1980s

**John Kevin Manard**, '80

September 5, 2013

**Richard W. Weisensee Jr.**, '80

March 19, 2013

**Daniel D. Bledsoe**, '84

March 11, 2013

**Billy Jack Smith**, '84

May 14, 2012

**Mary Anne Cruzan**, '86

May 20, 2013

**Lee Larimore**, '89

June 13, 2013

**Helen Robertson**

July 1, 2013

**Cyle Pierson**

July 25, 2013

## 1990s

**Jonathan Y. Noirfalise**, '93

December 9, 2012

**Bobby Merrill**, '94

May 8, 2013

## 2000s

**Bruce D. Turner**, '01

August 2, 2013

## 2010s

**Julie Lybarger-Johnson**, '11,  
October 2, 2013

**Jimmy Williams**, 87, of Seneca, Missouri, died September 1, 2013, in Joplin, Missouri. Born November 13, 1925, in Joplin, he was the son of the late James Steven Williams and Mable Evans Williams. A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, he served aboard the USS Taluga. Jimmy retired from Prudential Insurance Company in 1987, after 31 years of service as an agent and staff manager. A longtime member of First Christian Church, he had sung in the church choir since 1974. He was also active in the Missouri Southern State University Choral Society and the Crowder Choral Society. He married Alma Overman on June 25, 1948, in Joplin. She preceded him in death November 27, 2002. On November 13, 2010, he married Donna Mae Kohler King in Seneca. She survives.

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**Dr. Larry W. Flatt**, 66, Carthage, Missouri, died June 10, 2013. Larry was born July 8, 1946, in Ada, Oklahoma, and had lived in the Joplin area since 2005, having moved from Tulsa. He received his Ph.D. in education from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Larry worked in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for many years in the public school system as an instructor and an administrator. He worked closely with special needs children for many years. Larry was employed as a professor of education at Missouri Southern State University. Locally, Larry supported the Special Olympics and accompanied faculty and students from MSSU to Belize to establish educational systems there. He enjoyed woodworking, photography, sculpting marine life, and older car restoration. More recently, Larry discovered a love

of scuba diving which became the focal point of his vacation time. He is survived by his daughter and four grandchildren.

**Jerry E. Springer**, 66, died August 3, 2013, Joplin, Missouri. Jerry was born January 22, 1947, in Aurora, Missouri. He had lived in the Carthage-Joplin area most of his life. He was a 1965 graduate of Carthage High School and attended Missouri Southern State University and was a graduate of the Police Academy. Jerry was employed for 24 years in the maintenance department at MSSU, retiring in 2001. He was a member of the Meadowridge Free Methodist Church, Joplin, and attended St. James United Methodist Church. Jerry was an avid St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan. He is survived by a sister, two nieces, and one nephew.

**Steven George Vinyard**, 56, died August 8, 2013, in Joplin, Missouri. Steven was born September 19, 1956, in Kansas City, Missouri, to the late Dr. Jack L. Vinyard and Kathleen Slattery Vinyard. Steven graduated from Memorial High School in 1974 and received his bachelor's in biology from Missouri Southern State University. He earned his master's from Pittsburg State University in ornithology. He was an educator for many years, teaching at Labette Community College, Missouri Southern State University and McAuley Catholic High School. Steven was an active member of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church where he volunteered for many positions, helped with vacation Bible school, and was a eucharistic minister. He also volunteered at the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center.





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Aaron Baker, '04  
NWAR Chapter



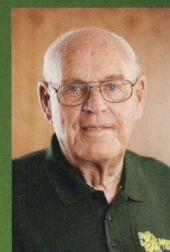
Cameo Harrington, '96  
Homecoming Committee



Bruce Fisher, '80  
Kansas City Chapter



Jean Campbell, '86  
Publicity Committee



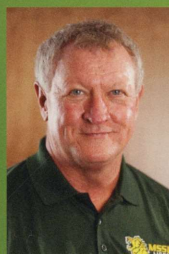
Keith Adams, '49  
Member-at-Large



Linda Dean, '78  
Long Range Planning



Lisa Sweet, '01  
Special Events Committee



Robert Corn, '78  
Awards Committee



Karen Sandridge, '79  
Secretary



Will Roderique, '91  
Treasurer



Shally Lundien, '95, '03  
Vice President

## WE BELIEVE IN THE MSSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BE PART OF THE PRIDE FOREVER!

For more information  
or to Join the Pride, go to:  
[www.mssu.edu/alumni](http://www.mssu.edu/alumni)



**crossroads**

MSSU Alumni Publication, Fall 2013